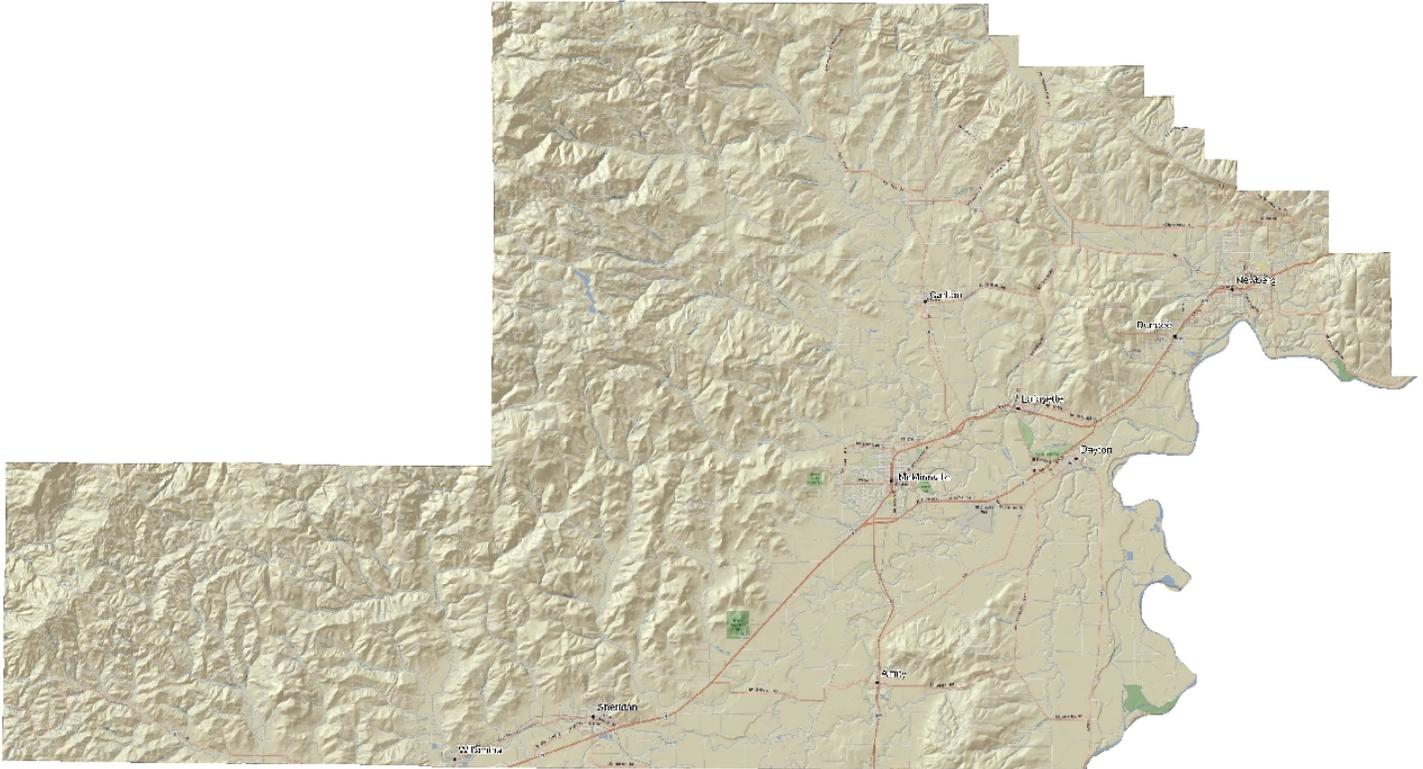




Yamhill
County
Strategic Approach to
Conservation
2011 -
2021



Vision: Shared responsibility and commitment to local action achieves effective land stewardship.

Yamhill County has taken leaps and bounds in conserving our natural resources, but as we are all aware the challenges at times seem unconquerable and ever growing. If we were to look into the future of Yamhill County, what do we envision for water quality, groundwater availability, wildlife habitat, air quality, soil erosion or energy demands? How do we address all these resources in a way that will maintain the quality of life we hold dear in Yamhill County that is due in no small part to these resources? In looking at the challenges facing Yamhill County we are trying to understand critical resource concerns and how we can effectively address these concerns in a strategic approach that will facilitate the biggest changes for the positive.

It is known that the quality and quantity of Oregon's water resources is a concern for state government and for the farmers that count on the water for their livelihoods. It is also known that wildlife habitat is a concern for both Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The relatively poor condition that is seen on Oregon's non-industrial private forestland has been a growing concern for Oregon Department of Forestry as well as the communities that are adjacent to these forestlands.

Together, landowners and local, state and federal agencies in Yamhill County can overcome the challenges that now stand before us. As a team we will start taking steps to combine efforts, combine information and combine knowledge to address these resource concerns which will maintain our quality of life for us and for our future.

The purpose of this plan will be to identify resource concerns and to work collaboratively, building and strengthening alliances, to address these resource concerns with a strategic investment of funds and resources to effectively solve natural resource problems in Yamhill County. This plan will cover the next 10 years, 2011 – 2021. This will be a dynamic document that will change as we grow and learn to ensure that the planned actions stay current with Yamhill County needs, concerns and desires.

Participants in the development of this plan:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Yamhill County Soil and Water Conservation District
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon State University Extension
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Yamhill County Producers and Landowners
- Yamhill County Local Government

Section II: Natural Resource Inventory

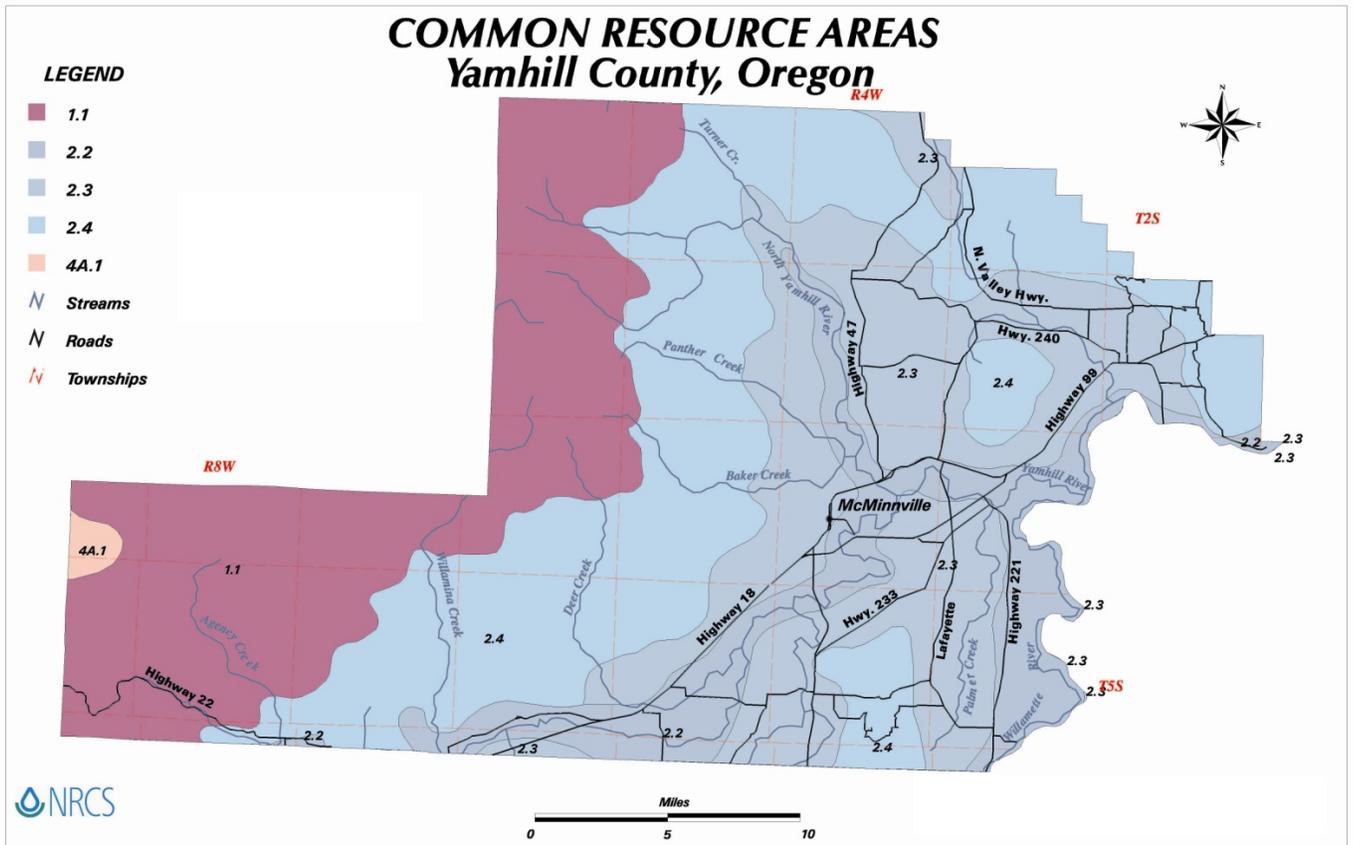
The following information is a comprehensive resource inventory of Yamhill County as it relates to soil, water, animals, plants, air and energy. By presenting this information collectively we can begin to analyze what we have, what condition it is in, and where we want to go from here.

Basic Demographics (US Census Bureau and Ag census Data)

Quickfacts (US Census)			
Quickfacts (US Census)	Data Year	Yamhill County	State of Oregon
Population	2009	99,037	3,825,657
Land area (square miles)	2000	715.56	95,996.79
Homeownership rate	2000	69.60%	64.30%
Ag Census Data			
Ag Census Data	2007	2002	% change
Number of Farms	2,115	2,329	-9
Land in Farms	180,846 acres	196,298 acres	-8
Average Size of Farm	86 acres	84 acres	+2
Market Value of Products Sold			
<i>Crop Sales \$230,814,000 (83 percent)</i>	\$277,561,000	\$208,558,000	+33
<i>Livestock Sales \$46,747,000 (17 percent)</i>			
Average Per Farm	\$131,235	\$89,548	+47
Government Payments	\$1,818,000	\$1,035,000	+76
Average Per Farm Receiving Payments	\$5,577	\$4,074	+37

Common Resource Areas (CRA's) in Yamhill County

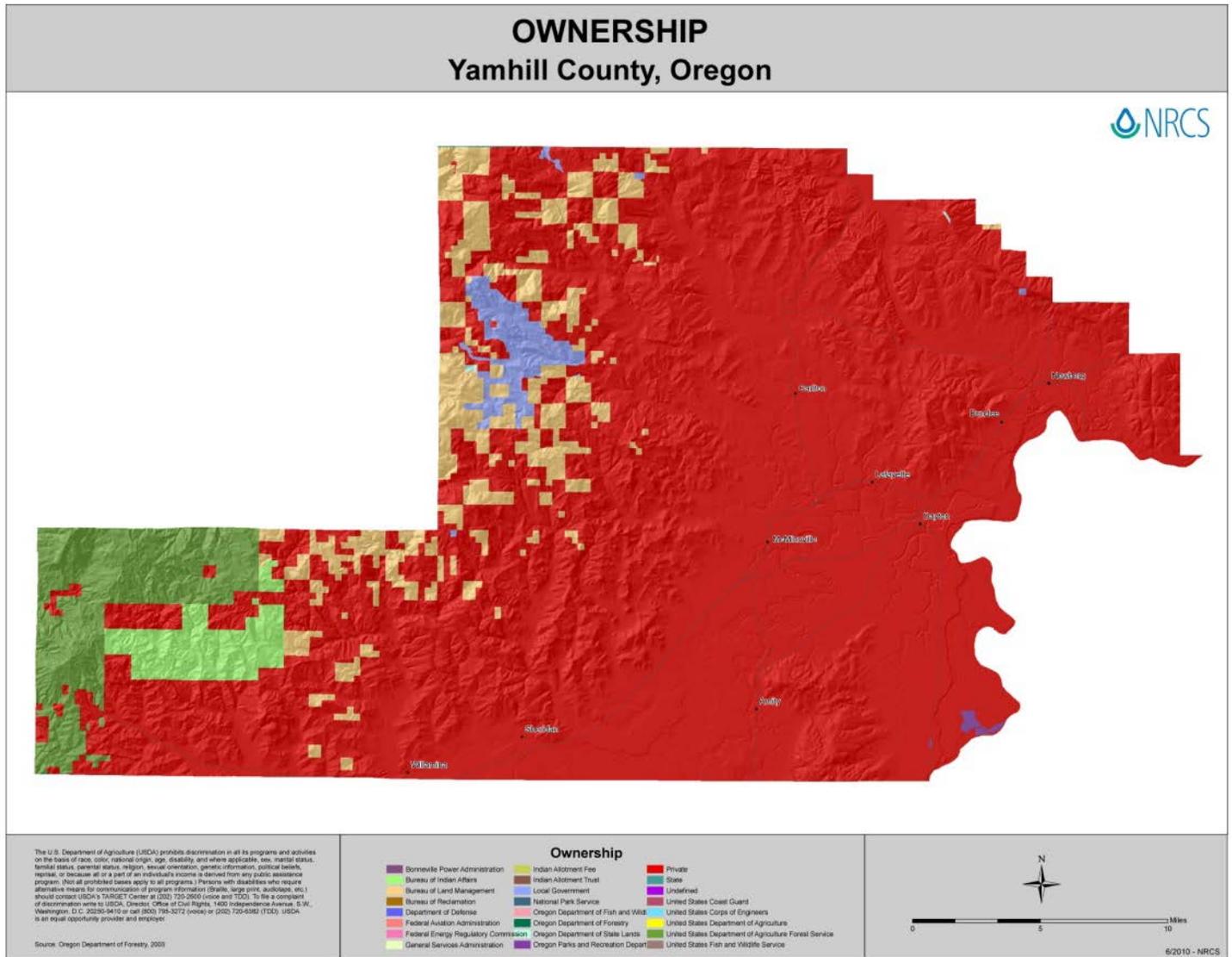
A Common Resource Area (CRA) map delineation is defined as a geographical area where resource concerns, problems, or treatment needs are similar.



An important step in solving natural resource concerns will be to identify problems and treatment methods that can be utilized in the same CRA.

Land Ownership

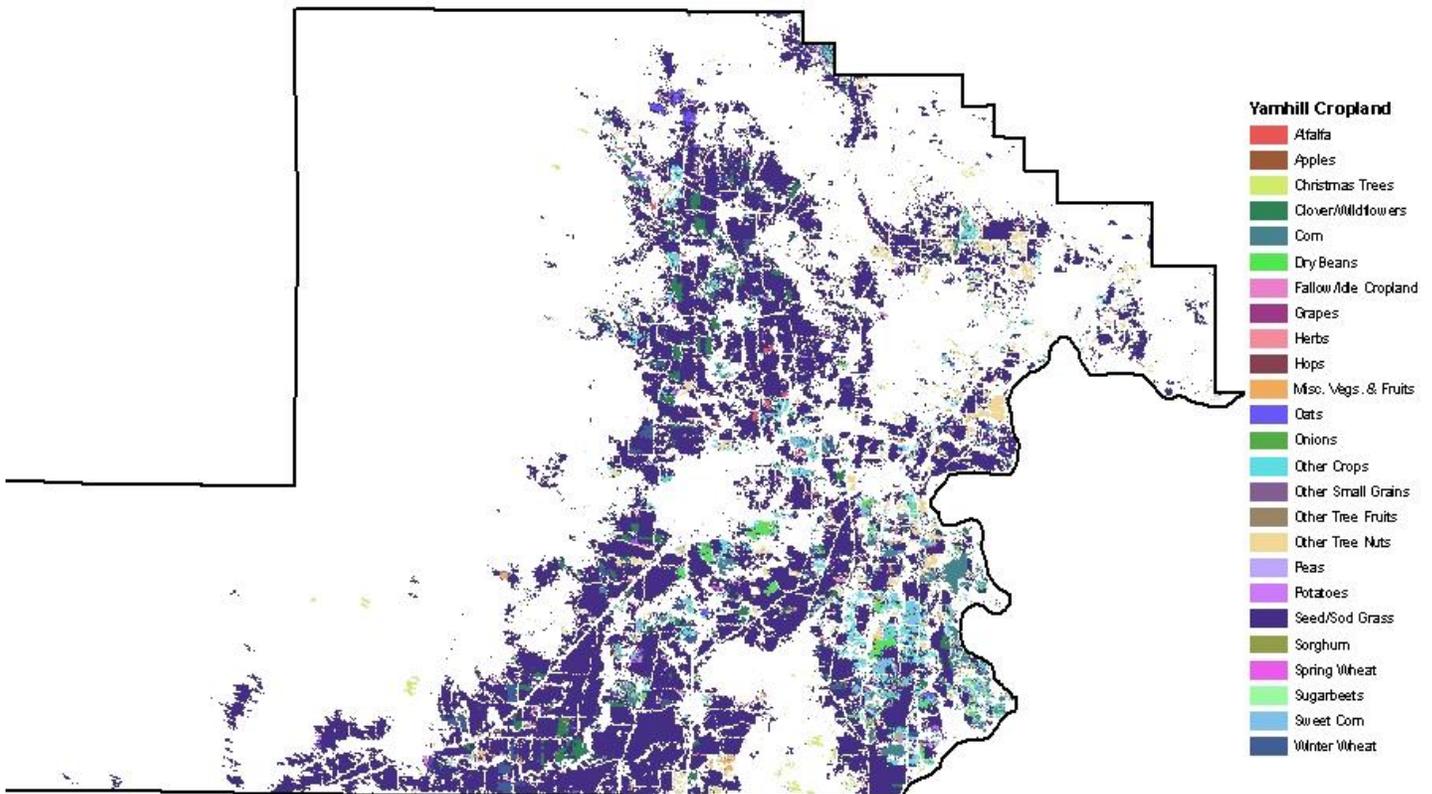
Yamhill County, totaling 459,384.8 acres, is predominately privately owned (372,562.2 acres or 81% of total acres) with agriculture and forest products leading as the county's primary industries.



Addressing resource concerns on private land will have the largest impact on the future condition of Yamhill County natural Resources.

Land Use/Land Cover

In 2007, crops were being produced on 180,846 acres. Crops vary from annually tilled grain crops to orchards and vineyards.

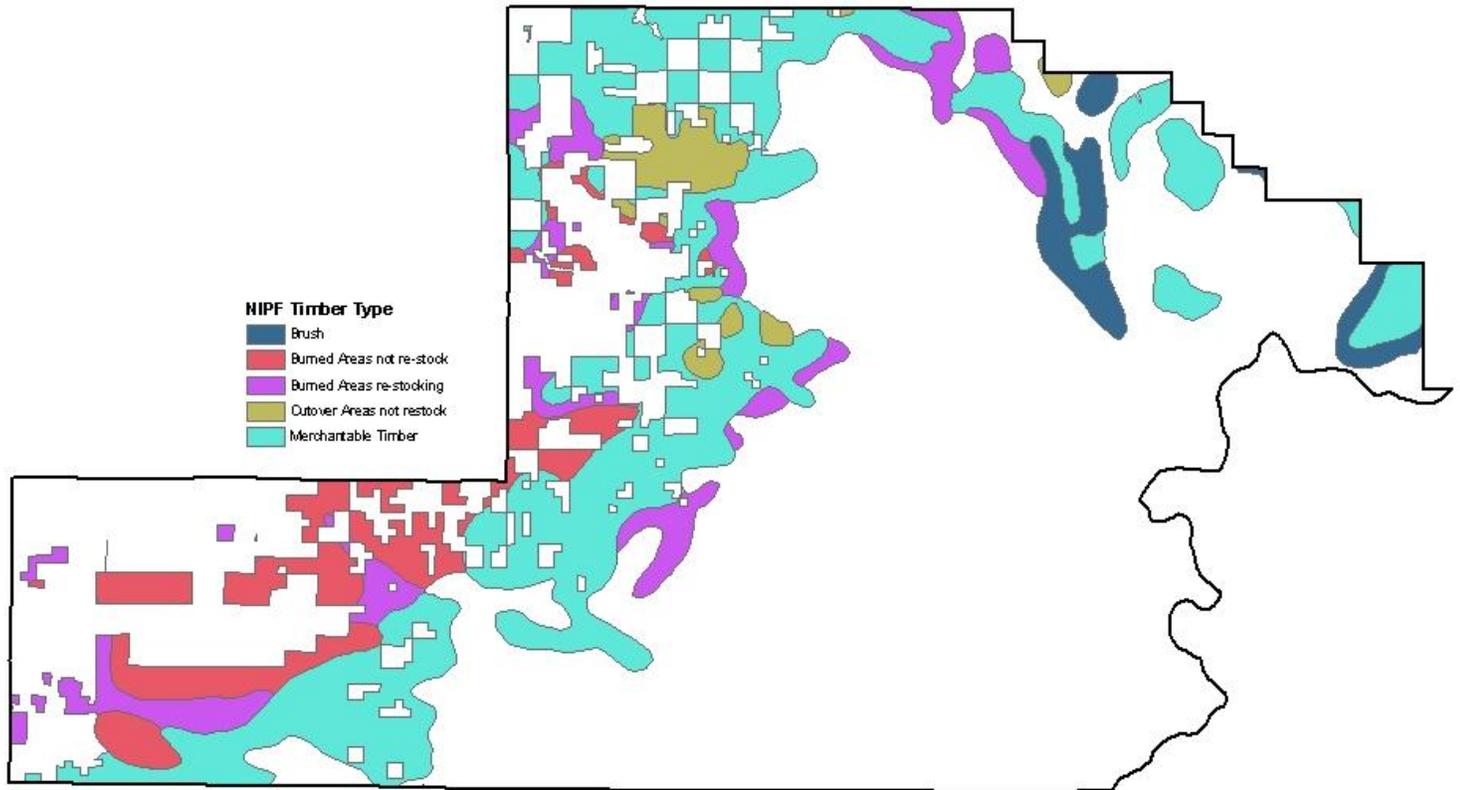


In 2009, Yamhill County ranked among the top 5 counties for top producing for 3 crops.

Greenhouse and nursery	Gross sales	Caneberries	Gross sales	Wine grapes	Tons
Marion	\$156,803,000	Marion	\$14,155,000	Yamhill	\$12,575
Clackamas	\$156,374,000	Clackamas	\$10,899,000	Polk	4,770
Washington	\$147,675,000	Washington	\$5,692,000	Marion	4,579
Yamhill	\$92,935,000	Multnomah	\$3,148,000	Washington	4,154
Multnomah	\$43,893,000	Yamhill	\$2,465,000	Jackson	3,966

Forestland

There are 126,314.3 acres of Non-Industrial Private Forestland (NIPF) in Yamhill County. The majority of these forestland acres have had little to no active management resulting in unhealthy forest stands with multiple resource problems impacting both people and wildlife. Of these problems, wildfire danger has the potential to impact the most communities.

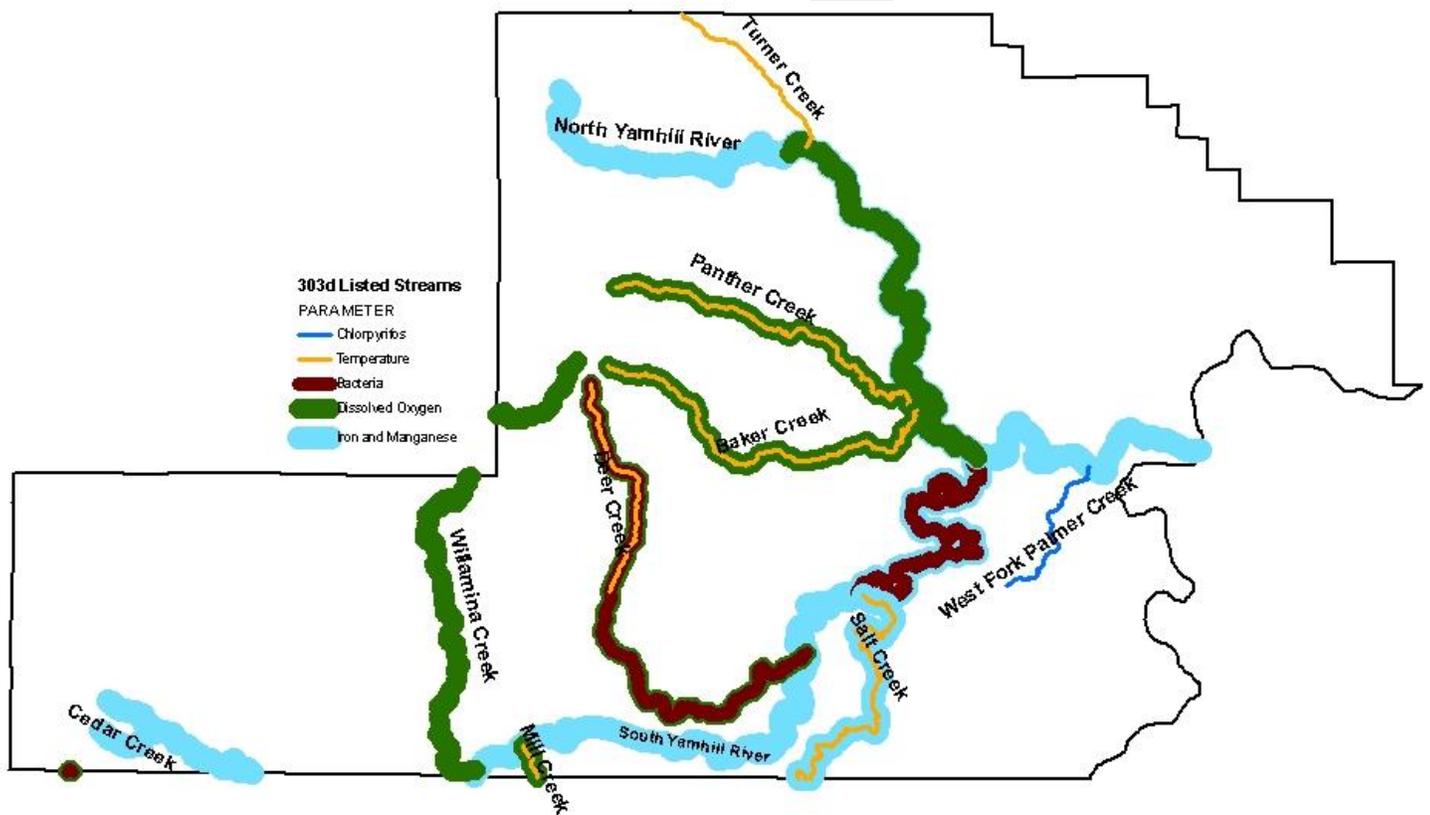


As developments spread out into areas that were once only forestland, the area of wildland-urban interface grows. Forestland left unmanaged or poorly managed has an excess of fuels which increases the risk of wildfire. Infrastructure in these areas would be at risk if a fire were to burn uncontrollably.

Water Resources

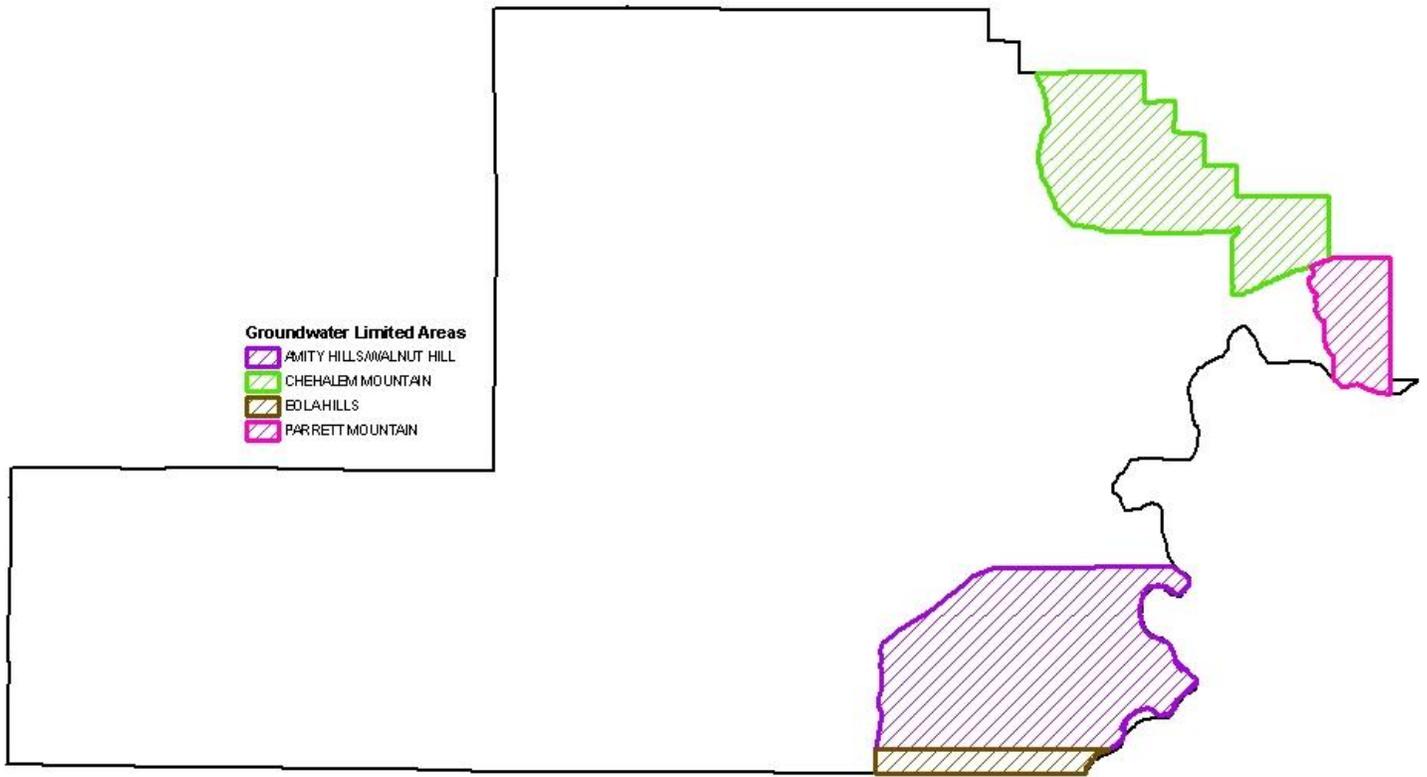
Water resources are the most important resource in Yamhill County that has also been the most negatively affected by people.

Most of Yamhill County lies in the Yamhill Basin Watershed. There are 3 main sub-basins (watersheds) that are being supplied by numerous small tributaries; North Yamhill, South Yamhill, and the Yamhill River main stem. This water is used for fishing, swimming, boating, wildlife habitat, native species enhancement, agriculture, and domestic and industrial development. Eleven stream segments in the Yamhill Basin do not meet state water quality standards and have been placed on Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) "303(d) List".



A stream can be "listed" for one or more parameters such as: bacteria levels, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, or for presence of toxic materials such as pesticides.

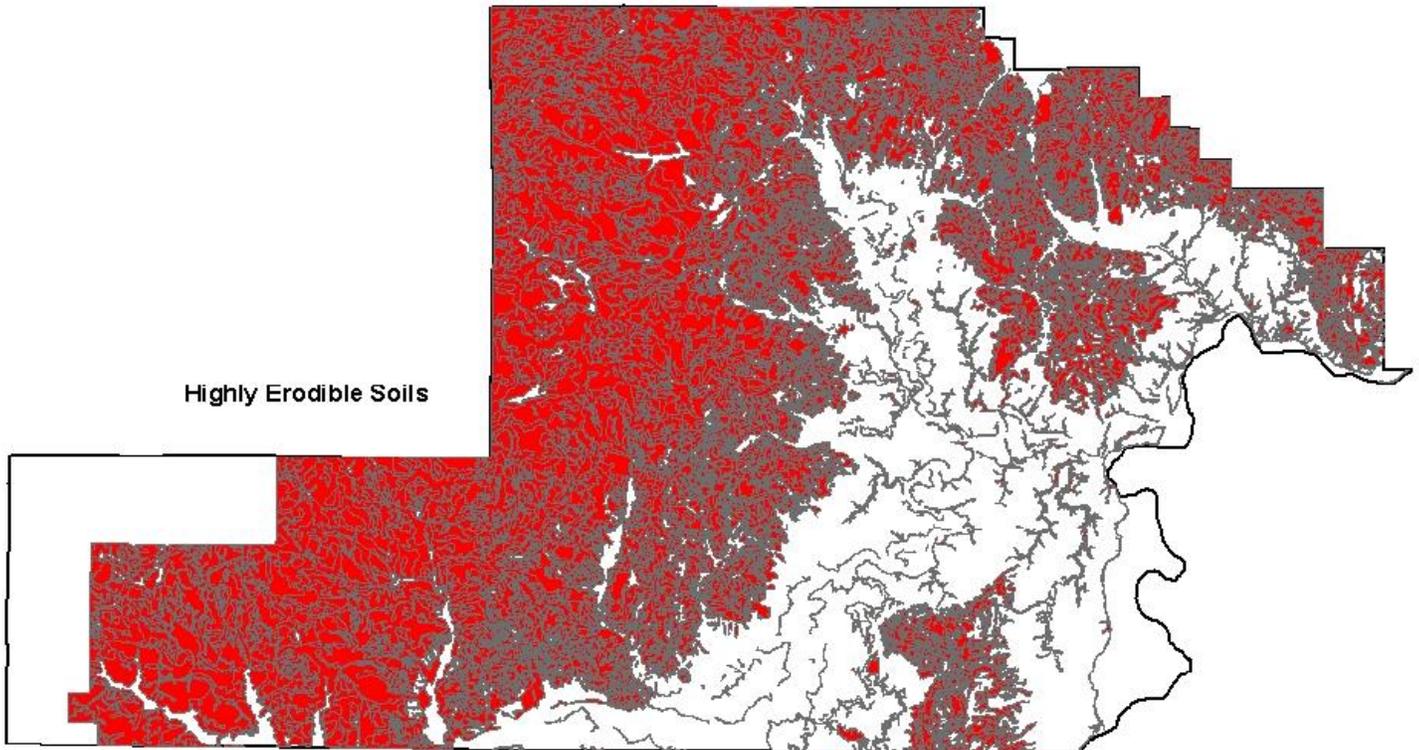
Water supply varies seasonally with high winter stream flows and low summer flows. Municipal water use can be in direct competition with agricultural uses in some communities. Because there is such a large demand, water quantity is also greatly impacted in Yamhill County.



There are 64,439.6 acres of Yamhill County that are currently in designated groundwater limited areas. This designation places restrictions on new water rights in these areas which restricts use of water to a few designated uses. Conservation of water in these areas may help to prevent future restrictions that are even more limiting in use.

Soil Quality

Yamhill County has an abundance of rich fertile soils that allows diverse agricultural crops to be grown. Soil quality can affect most aspects of growing crops from what type of crop can be grown to the yield. Erosion is one of the biggest soil quality issues for Yamhill County. This is due to soil types and to agricultural practices that can impact erosion. Fields that have bare soil exposed to winter rains will erode. The steeper the slopes where the erosion is occurring the more topsoil is washed away. Fully 2/3 of the soil in Yamhill County is highly erodible (due to soil characteristic, slope, etc) and need to have soil saving conservation practices used in any agricultural or forestry operations that occur on these soils.



Erosion of the soil also contributes to water quality issues. When soil is washed into water bodies the excess suspended sediment can harm wildlife that inhabits the water bodies. Soil particles can also have pesticides and fertilizer attached to the particles that can also contribute to water quality issues.

Noxious and Invasive Species

Noxious and invasive species are a common issue facing agricultural and forestry operations in Yamhill County. Noxious and invasive plant species are introduced species that have no natural control built into the ecosystem they have invaded led to rapid spread that displaces native species. This problem can have a large impact on wildlife habitat quality.

Yamhill County Noxious Weed List

Yamhill County Priority Noxious Weed List For 2009/ 2010 Fiscal Year.

Common Name	Scientific Name	ODA Noxious Weed Classification	List/Add Date
County "A" List High Priority For Control			
Italian Thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	B	1-29-90
Meadow Knapweed	<i>Centaurea pratensis</i>	B	8-13-90
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	B	2-26-91
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	T	5/28/02
False Brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	B	4/9/03
Spurge Laurel	<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Not listed	5/02/ 01
Scotch Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	B	11-13-89
County "B" List Important To Control			
Milk Thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	B	11-13-89
Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	B	11-13-89
Tansy Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	B, T	11-13-89
Field Bindweed - Agric.	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	B	2-26-91
Large Crabgrass - Agric.	<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>	Not Listed	2-26-91
Blackgrass - Agric.	<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	Not Listed	3-26-97
Velvetleaf - Agric.	<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	B	3-26-97
Field Dodder - Agric.	<i>Cuscuta pentagona</i>	B	3-26-97
Himalayan Blackberry	<i>Rubus discolor</i>	B	5/23/00
Reed Canary Grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea & aquatica</i>	Not on list	5/23/00
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	B	5/02/01
Italian Arum	<i>Arum italicum</i>	Not listed	5/27/04
County "T" List Watch For These Species			
Bamboo	Multiple species	none	5/2009
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	B, T	1-29-90
Giant Hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	A	5-27-04
Small Broomrape	<i>Orobanche minor</i>	B	5/28/02
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	B	5/23/06

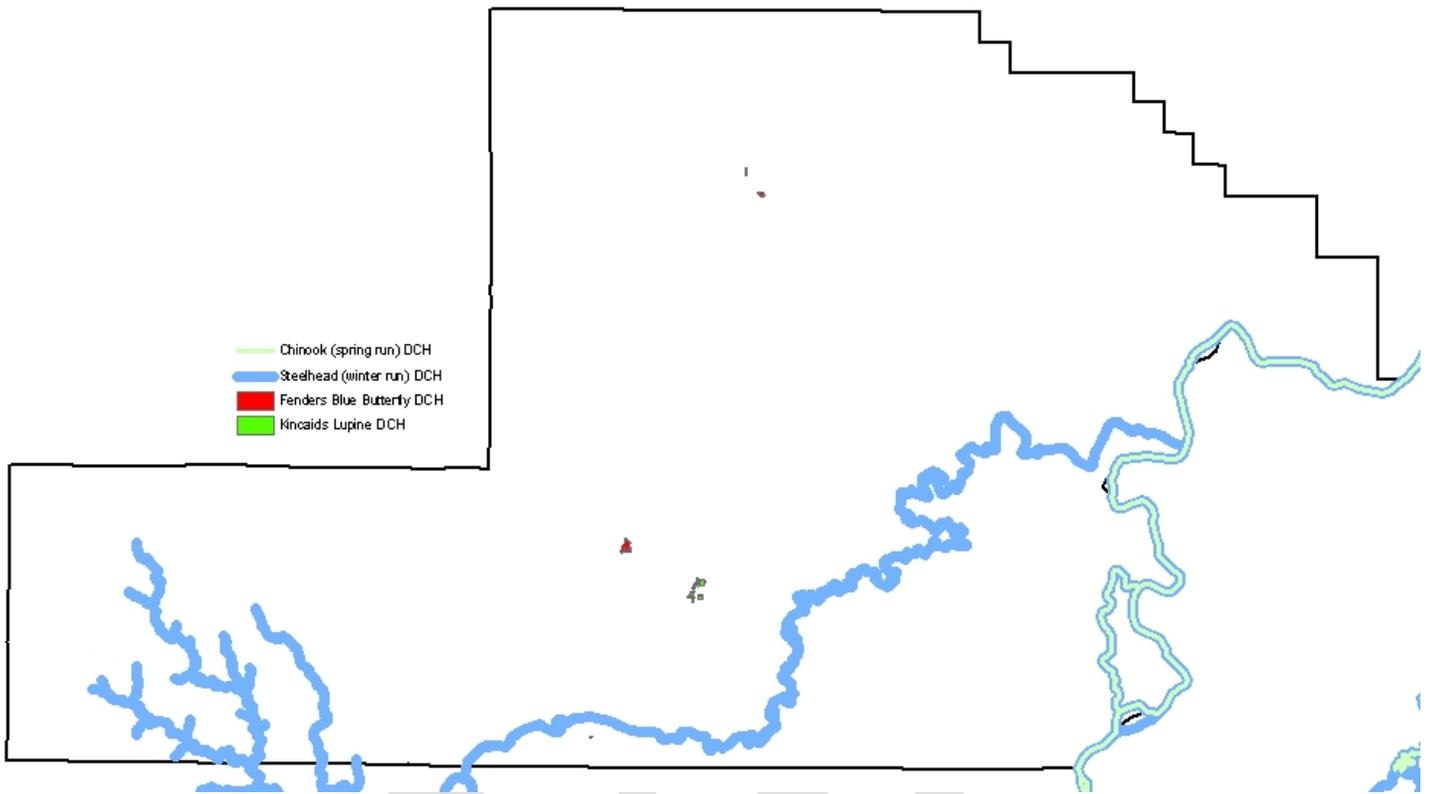
Wildlife Habitat & ESA Listed Species

Diversity and acreage of natural wildlife habitats in Yamhill County have been reduced as land was converted from natural forest and grassland to managed forests, cropland, homesteads, and urban areas. An estimated 40% of Willamette Valley wetlands have been lost. As a result, ecological functions of wetlands and riparian areas has been reduced such as: filtering sediment, providing wildlife habitat, regulating high water flows, replenishing groundwater, and providing greater in-stream water flows during summer months. Upland habitats have also been impacted. Oak savannah and oak woodlands have been converted to cropland, pastures and vineyards which has directly affected several species through a loss of suitable habitat.

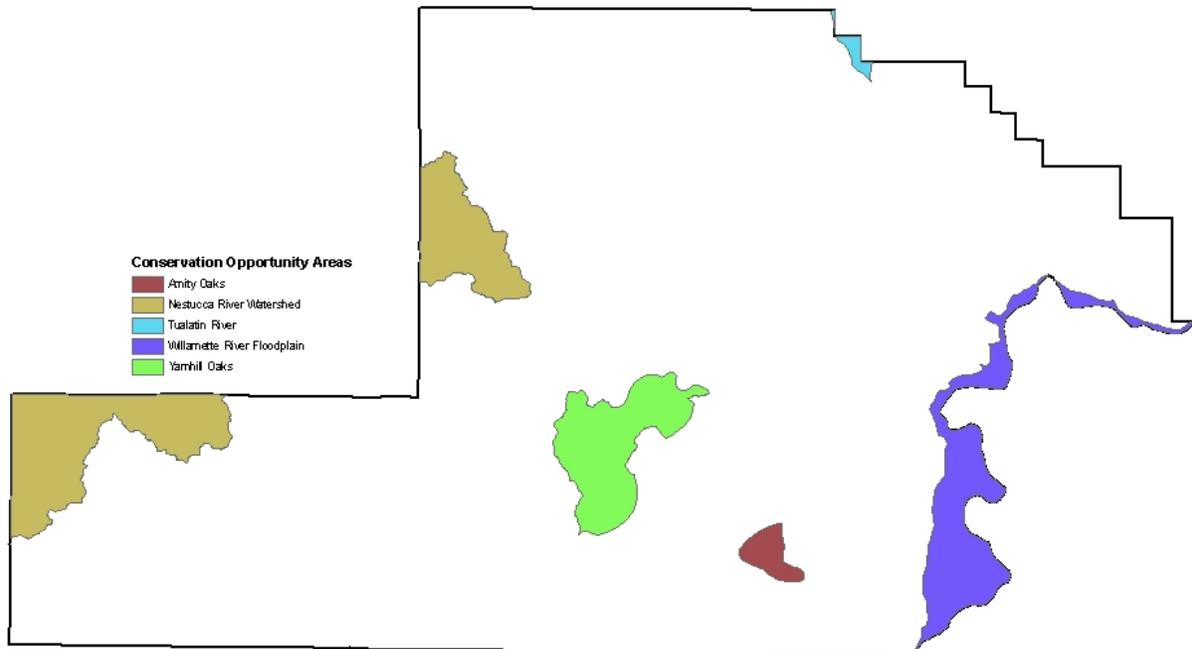
There are 10 species listed as threatened or endangered that occur in Yamhill County. Several of these species also have designated critical habitat.

FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Critical Habitat Designation?
Birds			
Marbled murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	T	YES
Northern spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	T	YES
Streaked horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris strigata</i>	T	NO
Invertebrates --Insects			
Fender's blue butterfly	<i>Icaricia icarioides fenderi</i>	E	YES
Oregon silverspot butterfly	<i>Speyeria zerene hippolyta</i>	T	YES
Plants			
Willamette daisy	<i>Erigeron decumbens var. decumbens</i>	E	YES
Water howellia	<i>Howellia aquatilis</i>	T	NO
Kincaid's lupine	<i>Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii</i>	T	YES
Nelson's checker-mallow	<i>Sidalcea nelsoniana</i>	T	NO
Fish			
Chinook Salmon (Upper Willamette River ESU, spring run)	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	T	YES
Steelhead Upper (Willamette River ESU, winter run)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T	YES

Designated Critical Habitat



Several agencies have undertaken projects that will address the declining habitat. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has designated Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) in habitats where the goals for a number of fish and wildlife species can best be met. Several of these COA's are in Yamhill County.



Section III Natural Resource Analysis

Conservation Efforts 2005-2012

NRCS Conservation 2005-2012

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that provides assistance to landowners and agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that address natural resource concerns on working lands to bring them up to NRCS quality criteria (meaning that they are no longer a concern on that operation).

Resource Concern Addressed	Conservation Applied (AC)
Soil Quality	12591
Water Quality	16681

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

This program was repealed in the 2014 Farm Bill. Information left in this long range plan for informational purposes only.

WHIP is a voluntary program that provides both technical and financial assistance to non-federal landowners and tribes to create, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats. The emphasis of the WHIP is to Promote the restoration of declining or important native fish and wildlife habitats; protect, restore, develop or enhance fish and wildlife habitat to benefit at-risk species; reduce the impacts of invasive species on fish and wildlife habitats and; and protect, restore, develop or enhance declining or important aquatic wildlife species habitats.

In Yamhill County an emphasis has been on declining habitats such as wet prairie and oak savannah. In 2008 several thousand acres of cropland were also provided funding for raptor poles and other wildlife structures to enhance habitat and to provide some natural means of pest control (raptor habitat).

Resource Concern Addressed	Conservation Applied (AC)
Wildlife Habitat	6498

Conservation Security Program (CSP Farm Bill 2002)

The Conservation Security Program (no longer authorized under Farm Bill 2008) was set up to be a green payment program, paying producers for the good work they were already doing on their ground. In 2005 the Yamhill Basin Watershed was one of the chosen watersheds for contracts. Producers that NRCS had never

worked with before because they had no resource concerns to address were now able to reap the benefits of their efforts to conserve natural resources on their land. A 3 tier system was set up for the contracts according to the amount of conservation that had been applied to the land.

- Tier 1: Soil and water quality issues were addressed on part of the operation. Any fields that didn't qualify were not eligible for payment.
- Tier 2: Soil and Water quality issues were completely addressed on the whole operation.
- Tier 3: All resource concerns that could impact any part of the operation were completely treated and met NRCS quality criteria.

Tier	# Contracts	Acres
Tier 1	4	3734
Tier 2	16	10293.1
Tier 3	64	17647.9

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP Farm Bill 2008)

The new CSP is a voluntary program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

Since the program's first sign up in January of 2010, NRCS has contracted 2622.6 acres of cropland and forestland where existing conservation measures meet or exceed the benchmark condition established by NRCS policy and where the producer has agreed to install additional conservation measures during their 5 year contract.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

This program was repealed in the 2014 Farm Bill. Information left in this long range plan for informational purposes only. All easements are now under the authority of ACEP.

The purpose of the program is to restore, protect and enhance wetlands for the benefit of migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife and plants, including species of concern and those that are state and federally listed. In addition to providing benefits to wildlife, WRP helps restore active floodplains along creeks and rivers, aids in flood control, and improves water quality by restoring environmentally sensitive, frequently-flooded cropland back to permanent vegetation. In Oregon, WRP targets marginal agricultural land that is subject to flooding, saturation and inundation and projects with a high likelihood of restoring wetland functions and values.

Since 2005, NRCS has purchased permanent conservation easements on 405 acres.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE) component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands. Existing WRP easements are now managed under this program.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements. The funding for this program is through a competitive grant process. Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded one of the first grants under this new program to address oak and prairie habitat in Yamhill and Polk Counties.

This program will assist landowners in restoring oak and prairie habitats in Yamhill and Polk counties to improve conditions for critical wildlife. Historic oak, prairie and savanna habitats have declined in the Willamette Valley, and efforts to restore this land will aid in the recovery of several endangered species, including the Fender's blue butterfly.

Partners in Conservation

Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

The Yamhill SWCD has been and a leader in conservation efforts in Yamhill County and an important partner to NRCS for over 50 years.

Soil Quality: Current work includes assisting USDA-NRCS with implementing a variety of programs that encourage soil resource protection and enhancement. EQIP is being used to increase adoption of conservation tillage with are grass seed producers to protect those soils from soil erosion. The district has partnered with Yamhill County to establish a program to seed all roadside ditches after they are cleaned using a hydro-mulch machine and a straw applicator purchased by the district using grant funds. The district provides input on county land use applications from a natural resource perspective and to raise awareness of the value of soils. The district has taken an active role in conservation of productive soils by establishing a conservation easement program which has limited development rights on over 1000 acres of land since 2003.

Water Quality: Current work includes work to increase irrigation efficiency with area irrigators using EQIP contracts to improve irrigation systems and encourage better irrigation scheduling. District staff has established riparian buffers along 20+ miles of local streams to protect water quality and provide riparian area habitat. Establishing permanent wetlands on private lands to restore and clean water and provide

wildlife habitat. Assisting the Yamhill Basin Council and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality with water quality monitoring.

Wildlife Habitat: Current work includes completion of raptor nesting and perches on 4000 acres of grass seed fields to reduce impact of voles on crop production, thereby reducing the need for chemical controls that have been impacting non-target species. Each year staff and volunteers organize an annual native plant sale that offers over 50 species to landowners interested in restoration projects and using native plants for landscaping. Over 750,000 native plants have been distributed since this program was initiated in 1992. Noxious weed control projects and education are conducted each year to protect plant and animal habitats and reduce impact of noxious weeds on agriculture and forestry. Beginning in 2015 YSWCD staff will also begin implementing the RCPP program in oak and prairie habitats in Yamhill and Polk Counties, addressing resource concerns on habitat that has become endangered.

Other State and Federal Agencies

NRCS has a long history of partnering with state and federal agencies in Yamhill County in order to share information and resources. Partner contributions to conservation efforts have included:

Farm Service Agency (FSA) works with landowners and producers through various programs to assist with loans, disaster payments, to protect and restore riparian habitat and to protect farmland from erosion. With financial and technical assistance through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Conservation Enhancement Program (CRP), FSA has restored 420 AC of riparian habitat and has protected 1023.6 AC of highly erodible cropland from erosion.

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) works with producers and landowners to 1) ensure food safety and provide consumer protection; 2) to protect the natural resource base for present and future generations of farmers and ranchers, and 3) to promote economic development and expand market opportunities for Oregon agricultural products. With these three goals in mind ODA regularly works with NRCS to ensure that producers and landowners remain in compliance with state law and offers technical assistance and information to assist with conservation. ODA has also partnered with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in addressing water quality issues in surface water and groundwater in areas that are a source of drinking water.

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) routinely works with non-industrial private forestland owners to ensure that these landowners have access to technical resources and to ensure that everyone understands and complies with the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Through their Private Forests Program they provide landowner assistance services and enforcement of resource protection rules on all privately-owned forest in Oregon. Services that the Stewardship Foresters have provided to Yamhill County landowners include forest health and forest management assistance, preservation of water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife, and regulation of harvest, chemical use and reforestation requirements.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has worked with Yamhill County landowners through the Habitat and Access Program to conserve wildlife habitat and to protect and enhance recreational activities. Habitat and Access Program funds were used to hire 5 Oregon State Police Senior Troopers to patrol private timberlands from Aug. to Dec. The increased law enforcement provides an incentive to private timberland

owners to continue to allow hunting access. ODFW has also provided biological information and assistance to NRCS planners on conservation plans. In February of 2006, ODFW published their Conservation Strategy for the whole state. This document has provided useful information in defining what wildlife habitats in Yamhill County should look like and has provided “on the ground” sites where collaborative efforts to conserve and preserve wildlife habitat would have the most impact.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has a Natural Resource Division that is responsible for managing the Tribe’s timber assets and also contributes to conservation in all of Yamhill County through technical assistance to NRCS. The Tribe is an active participant of several natural resource discussion groups that meet on a regular basis to address natural resource concerns and seek to find solutions to efficiently address these resource concerns.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) works with private landowners through their Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to efficiently achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands, through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of Federal Trust Species (in Yamhill County this is defined as migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, inter-jurisdictional fish). USFWS has been a valuable partner to NRCS on Wetland Reserve Easements (formerly WRP) in planning, restoration, permitting, and technical assistance

Oregon State University Extension offers technical assistance and educational opportunities to producers and landowners to ensure them access to the newest and best technology and scientific information that is available. Especially important in Yamhill County has been information that has been provided to producers on nutrient and pest management and how it relates to water quality.

In addition to the conservation done by our partner agencies/organizations, many producers that NRCS has worked with in the past take the information they learned during the time they spent working with NRCS and apply those conservation efforts to other lands. They also become invaluable resources for recruiting new producers to NRCS programs allowing our program funds and technical assistance to touch many more than we would have been able to without their help.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Through the combined efforts of NRCS and our partner agencies, we have addressed natural resource concerns in all areas of Yamhill County. Some resource concerns, such as soil erosion from cropland, we have seen a dramatic change for the better. Some natural resource concerns continue to be a challenge.

Resource concerns that remain to be addressed or more effectively addressed present a unique opportunity for NRCS to grow in our efforts to work with others, in the methods we choose to use and in how we perceive natural resources and their value to us.

Surface Water Quality is a resource concern that has yet to be effectively addressed in Yamhill County. Surface water quality is impacted by everything that we do on the landscape, not just agricultural activities. Because water quality is directly impacted by so many sources it has become an issue that requires cooperation and collaboration between agencies and with all residents in Yamhill County, both the urban and rural. Surface

water quality impacts wildlife through the degradation of their habitat and also directly impacts people as the source of drinking water for most urban areas are the rivers and streams running through the rural areas.

Water Quantity impacts who can use water, how they can use water and when they can use water.

Groundwater quantity has been directly impacted by population growth in Yamhill County which has resulted in 64,439.6 acres of Yamhill County that are currently in designated groundwater limited areas. New water rights in these areas come with use restrictions due to the Groundwater Limited designation. Surface water quantity is due to an over-allocation of water rights. During low flow periods the habitat value of that stream suffers as does the quality of the water due to condensed contaminants.

Forest Health is critical to Yamhill County for clean water, and habitat. Forest health also affects the quality of timber which can impact the livelihood of the owner. Wildfire dangers in the forestland located in the wildland urban interface areas (areas where commercial or residential infrastructure is located in or adjacent to forestland). A lack of management or poor management of the forestland has contributed to an increase of fuel load which include a high density of ladder fuels, an increase of volatile fuels (most of these being invasive), and general poor health and condition of the trees and understory vegetation. In addition, most landowners have no resources to maintain access roads that can be used year round for management or for fire control.

Loss Of Critical Habitat is occurring more frequently as the population of Yamhill County grows and land use changes. Oak woodland, oak savannah, upland prairie and wet prairie habitats, which once dominated the landscape in the Willamette Valley have declined in acreage and are now restricted to isolated remnants on wildlife refuges or in small acres that are incidental to an agricultural operation. These habitats are not actively managed and suffer ongoing degradation from conifer encroachment, invasive species, and over-crowding of trees caused by lack of fire. Oak woodlands and savannas are considered among the most important plant communities for wildlife in the Pacific Northwest, providing habitat for hundreds of species of plants, animals and insects. These oak habitats are also one of most threatened forest types in North America. In the Willamette Valley, it is estimated that less than 7% of the historic range of oak communities remain. Habitat loss has been due to conversion for agricultural or residential uses and vegetation shifts due to fire suppression. In Yamhill County an increase in vineyards has had the largest impacts on the oak communities.

These resource concerns continue to be problematic to address. The inability to adequately address these resource concerns can be attributed to several causes: a lack of adequate funding to address the concerns, knowledgeable staff, impossible statutory regulations, ignorance of landowners, etc. In sharing the responsibility and commitment for the conservation of Yamhill County natural resources with all of our partner agencies, and after analyzing the data collected, NRCS funding and technical assistance will be targeting the following concerns over the next 10 years (listed with associated Farm Bill Programs).

Surface Water Quality – EQIP and CSP

Water Quantity (Surface and groundwater) – EQIP and CSP

Forest Health – EQIP and CSP

Loss of Critical Habitat – WRE and RCPP

The following section will provide a more in-depth discussion of these resource concerns, their causes and what we hope to achieve by 2021.

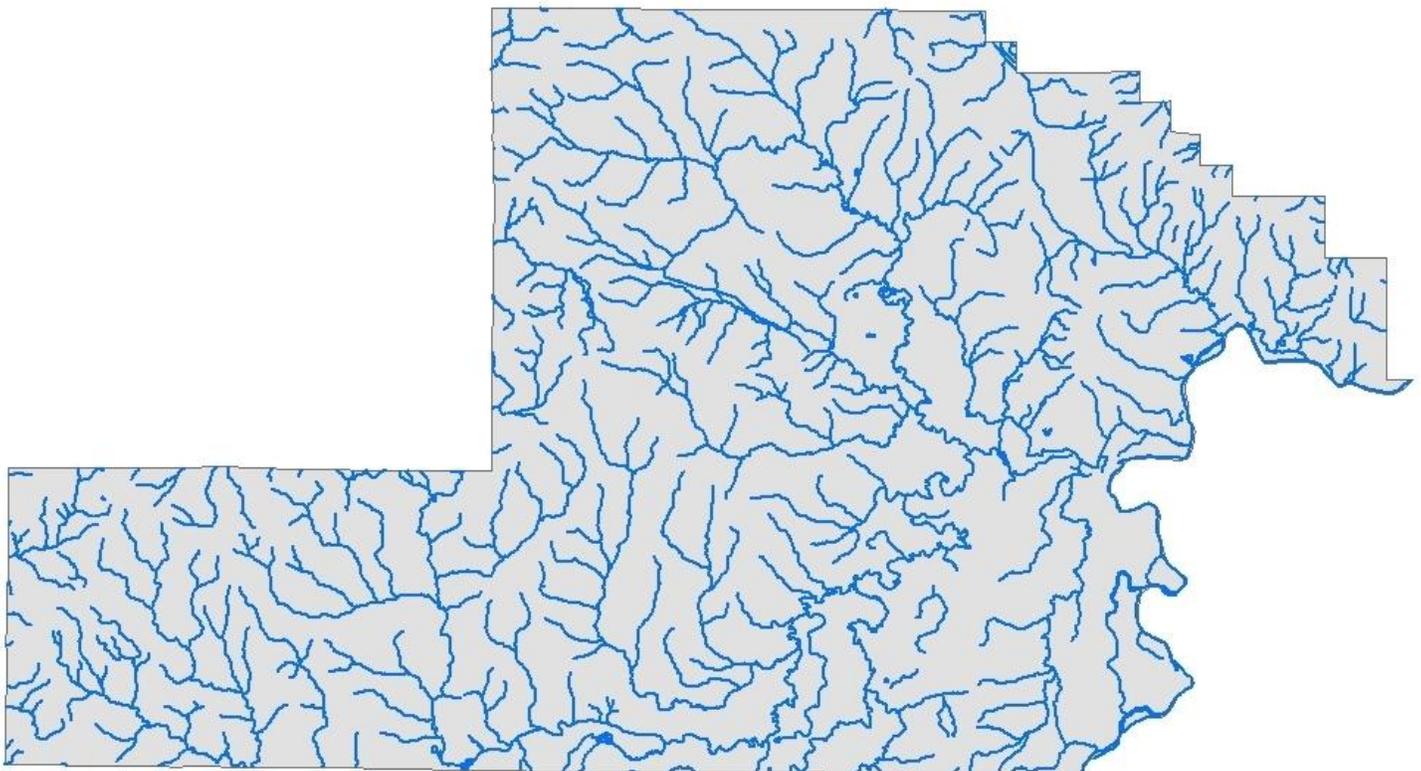
Section IV: Natural Resource Problems and Desired Future Outcomes

Information on natural resource concerns in Yamhill County come from partner agencies and from information given to NRCS at the annual Local Workgroup Meeting (LWG). LWG minutes will be updated annually as an appendix to this report.

Surface Water Quality

Clean water is vital to every living thing. Water quality affects everything from the potability of water to the species of vegetation and animals that can inhabit the water and adjacent areas.

Within Yamhill County there are 860 miles of streams, of which 192 miles (11 stream segments) are on the 303(d) list as not having met state water quality standards for one or more established parameters (temperature, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, iron, manganese and the pesticide chlorpyrifos).



YAMHILL COUNTY STREAMS

From looking at the above map you can see that there is nowhere in Yamhill County that isn't in close proximity to a stream. This means that no matter where a person lives or works, water quality is a problem for everyone. Water quality is a human caused problem and everything that is done by us on the landscape has the potential to impact water quality. Contaminants enter the streams from urban areas (storm drains, erosion, dumping of toxic chemicals, etc) and the rural areas (pesticide and fertilizer application to cropped fields, erosion, etc.), and needs to be addressed at both of these sources. Continued contamination of Yamhill County water resources will lead to restrictions on the time and amount of water use, restrictions on farming

operations (specifically fertilizer and pesticide use), financial impacts through increased fees or taxes, a steady decline in habitat value for many species and contaminated drinking water that pose a threat to human life. Several agencies regularly monitor water quality and its subsequent impacts. Oregon DEQ, ODA, ODFW and USFW are all responsible for some element that is impacted by water quality. Other organizations monitor water quality because they understand the potential issues that declining water quality can have.

Desired Future Conditions

Desirable outcomes or goals met through targeting NRCS resources in an effort to address water quality would include:

- Contaminants that currently do not meet state water quality standards would show a steady improvement through the monitoring done by DEQ, the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council, as well as any other agencies or organizations that regularly monitor water quality in Yamhill County.
- An increase of 20% in riparian forest buffer acreage along the streams currently listed on the 303(d) list by 2021.
- Higher surface water flows during critical summer months in all fish-bearing streams.

To get these desired outcomes, NRCS resources will be targeted at farming operations that have the potential to directly impact streams (either positively or negatively) through proximity. Farming operations that are within 1 mile of a 303(d) listed stream will have the highest priority in Farm Bill program ranking, operations that are adjacent to all other streams will have a medium priority. Medium priority operations will become higher priority as the targeted high priority operations are systematically addressed. NRCS will invest in the growing usage of management practices (pest management, nutrient management, irrigation water management and residue management) that promote a change in basic farming techniques and have the largest potential impact on water quality. NRCS will also promote installation and use of vegetative buffers along all waterways including ditches. Finally, NRCS will invest in an increase of more efficient irrigation systems and pumps to increase water availability during the critical summer months which historically show the highest concentration of contaminants.

Projected time to meet objectives with NRCS technical assistance and funding: 7 – 10 years

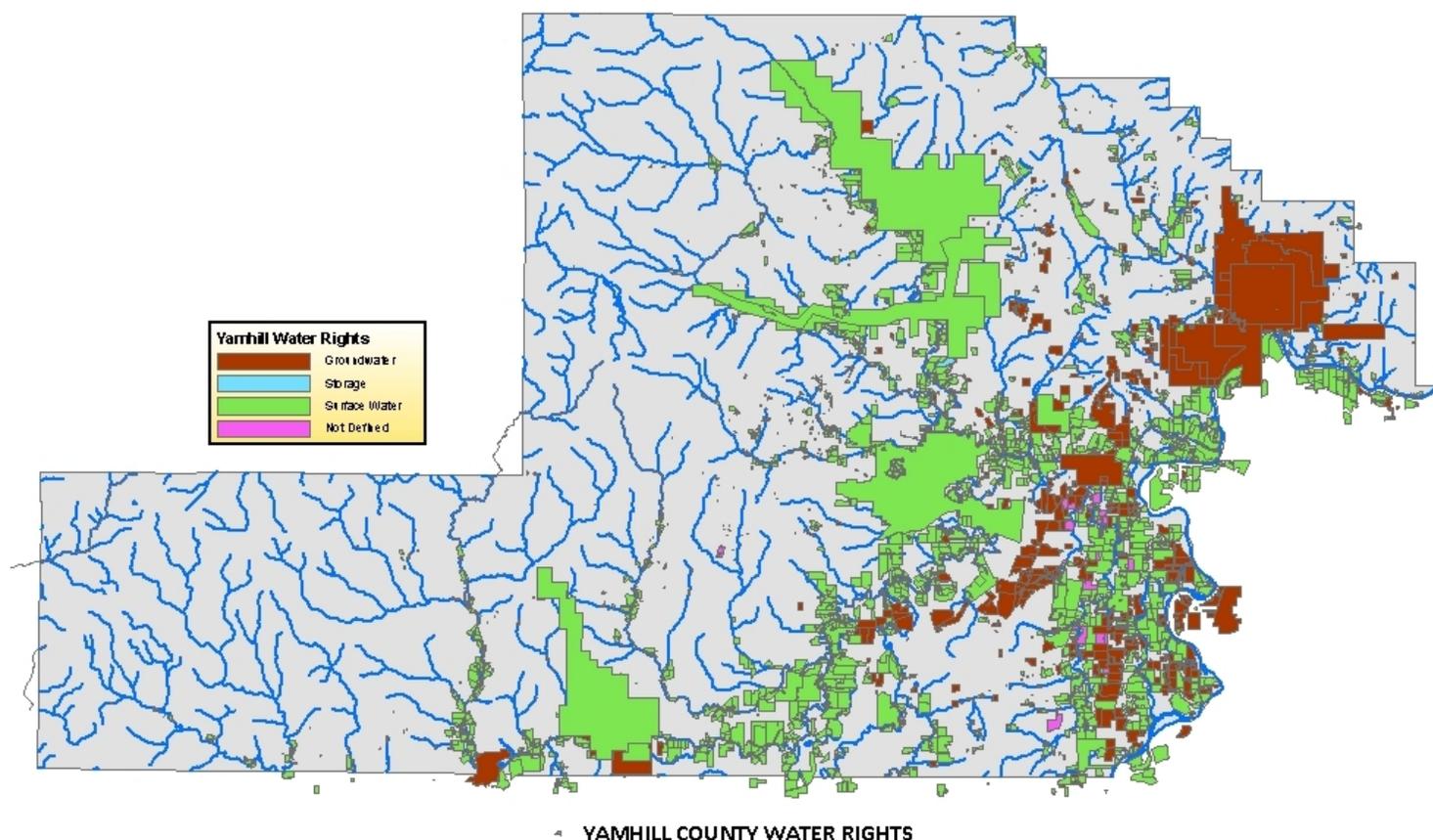
Projected funding needs: \$250,000.00 per year

In 2012 - 2015, Yamhill SWCD prioritized the Middle North Yamhill River watershed for water quality outreach and conservation efforts. This watershed was given additional priority through ranking points for the 2012-2015 EQIP funding years. As our partners prioritize areas of concern, NRCS will support their efforts through tools available to us.

Water Quantity

Water is an important requirement for everyone, a requirement that can affect their lives and livelihoods. Adequate supplies of water are required to support communities; agricultural operations; economic and community development; recreational opportunities; as well as sustaining fish, wildlife, and their habitat.

Yamhill County receives on average 44 inches of precipitation annually. However, water supplies are still limited during the summer months with available surface water being over allocated and groundwater resources unable to recharge to support the ever growing demand.



In Yamhill County major rivers and tributaries are fully appropriated during the summer low flow periods. Groundwater resources have been over used and have lead to 4 separate groundwater limited areas which now has restrictions on new water rights in these areas. Water quantity is an issue that is impacting every resident of Yamhill County. To ensure that there are adequate water supplies to meet the needs of today while providing for the demands of tomorrow is to strategically plan for the future.

Water quantity plays a key role in several other resource concerns such as habitat value and water quality. Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) monitors water rights and usage and enforces restrictions where water is in limited supply. OWRD also assists other state and federal agencies in the promotion of In

Stream Water Rights made possible by the 2007 Instream Water Right Act. Statewide this act has resulted in Oregon having restored nearly double the amount of instream flow of Washington, Idaho, and Montana combined. Oregon is now a leader in flow restoration, with more than 1,100 individual instream leases, instream transfers, and allocations of conserved water that restore about 900 cubic feet per second (cfs) of streamflow for fish and wildlife, recreation, and pollution abatement.

Desired Future Conditions

Desirable outcomes or goals met through targeting NRCS resources in an effort to address water quality would include:

- Surface water flow during the critical summer months would be increased by 20% by 2021. Monitoring done by OWRD and other agencies would show this increase in flow.
- Groundwater limited areas would see restrictions removed or lessened. No additional areas would be labeled as groundwater limited. Aquifer water recharge would be sustainable.
- Agricultural operations would utilize the most efficient irrigation equipment and irrigation water management plans would become a daily part of the farming operations.

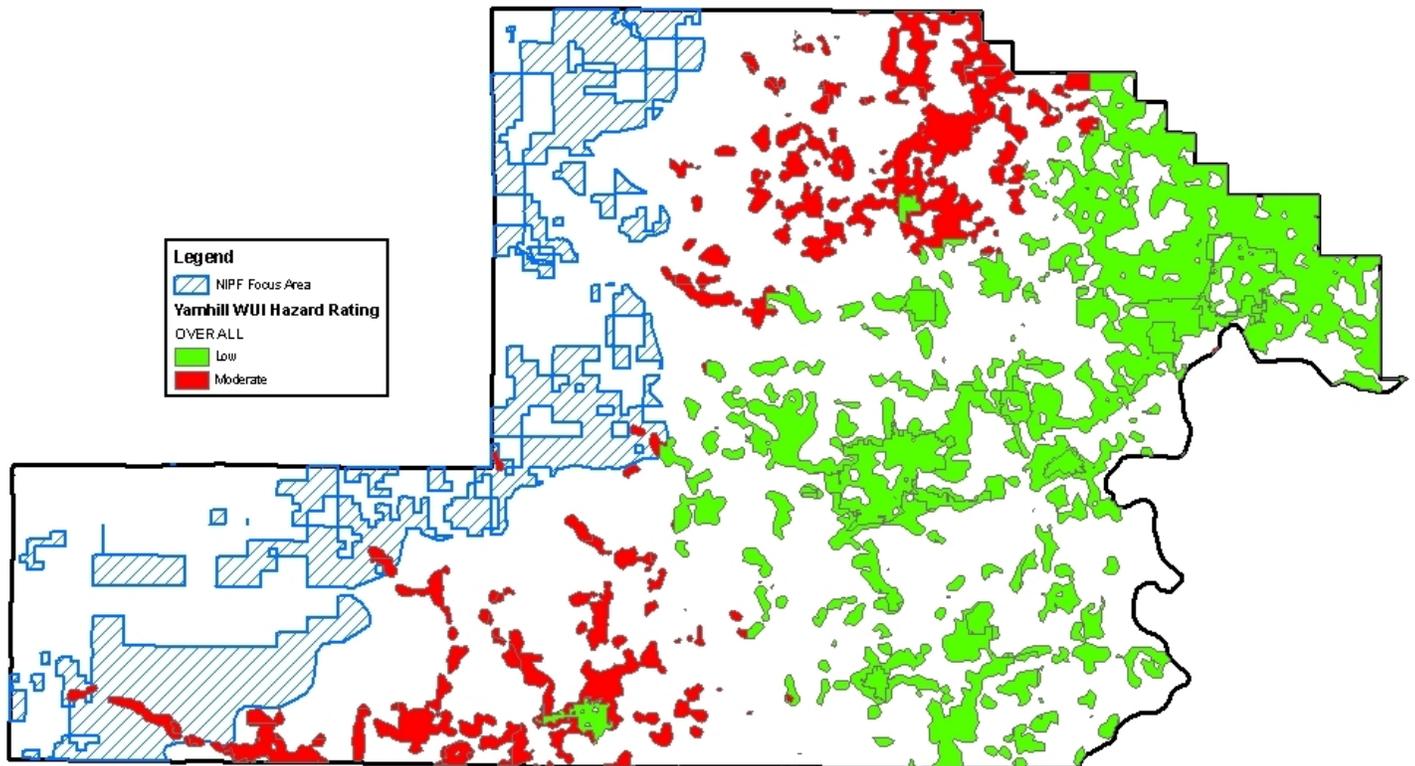
In order to address this resource concern, an effort must be made by every Yamhill County resident to conserve water. Water right law in Oregon is complicated at best, so the continued over allocation of water will not be something that we can address. However, NRCS resources and funding can be utilized to address water quantity on agricultural operations, which is a good start. To get these desired outcomes, NRCS resources will be targeted at farming operations that have the potential to directly impact streams (either positively or negatively) through proximity. Farming operations that are utilizing surface water for irrigation or are using groundwater in the designated groundwater limited areas will have the highest priority in Farm Bill program ranking. Medium priority will be given to users of groundwater outside of the designated groundwater limited areas. NRCS will invest in the growing usage of management practices (nutrient management, irrigation water management and residue management) that promote a change in basic farming techniques and have the largest potential impact through soil water holding capacity on water quantity. NRCS will also invest in an increase of more efficient irrigation systems and pumps to address surface water quantity (increase water availability and decrease water losses during the critical summer months) and in groundwater quantity (decrease usage of groundwater and will allow aquifer recharge).

NRCS will also offer technical assistance when requested to cities to address water quantity in urban areas.

Forest Health

Poor or non-existent management on non-industrial private forestland (NIPF) in Yamhill County has resulted in forests that are overstocked, diseased, and in poor health overall. Poor forest health has led to excessive fuel load levels that dramatically increasing the chance of a catastrophic wildfire. Potential for wildfires are especially of concern in wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas where wildfires can have devastating effects on homes, businesses and infrastructure. (Wildland-urban interface areas are defined as the line, area, or zone

where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuel.) This general and wide spread lack of management has resulted in overstocked forest stands, invasive species spread, and insects and disease that all contribute directly to the fuel loads. In addition to the direct impact that a catastrophic fire would have in the surrounding communities, indirect impacts, such as increased erosion from burned over areas and from hastily laid out access roads are also a concern. Addressing the overall health of forestland will prevent an increase in the wildfire hazard potential of an area. The direct link between forest health and wildfire hazard is the resource concern that has the potential to impact the largest amount of people in Yamhill County.



Yamhill NIPF Wildland Urban Interface

The areas in red on the map above represent areas of the WUI where the potential for wildfire poses the largest concern in Yamhill County. Compared to the rest of the state of Oregon, fire danger in Yamhill County is not a high concern, however, this is based on the conditions as they are now. If the current rates for population growth and forest health decline are maintained, this rating could easily become high.

ODF works with private forest landowners in Yamhill County to provide assistance through education and information as well as the limited funding that they receive (although not annually and the amount is often less than adequate).

Desired Future Conditions

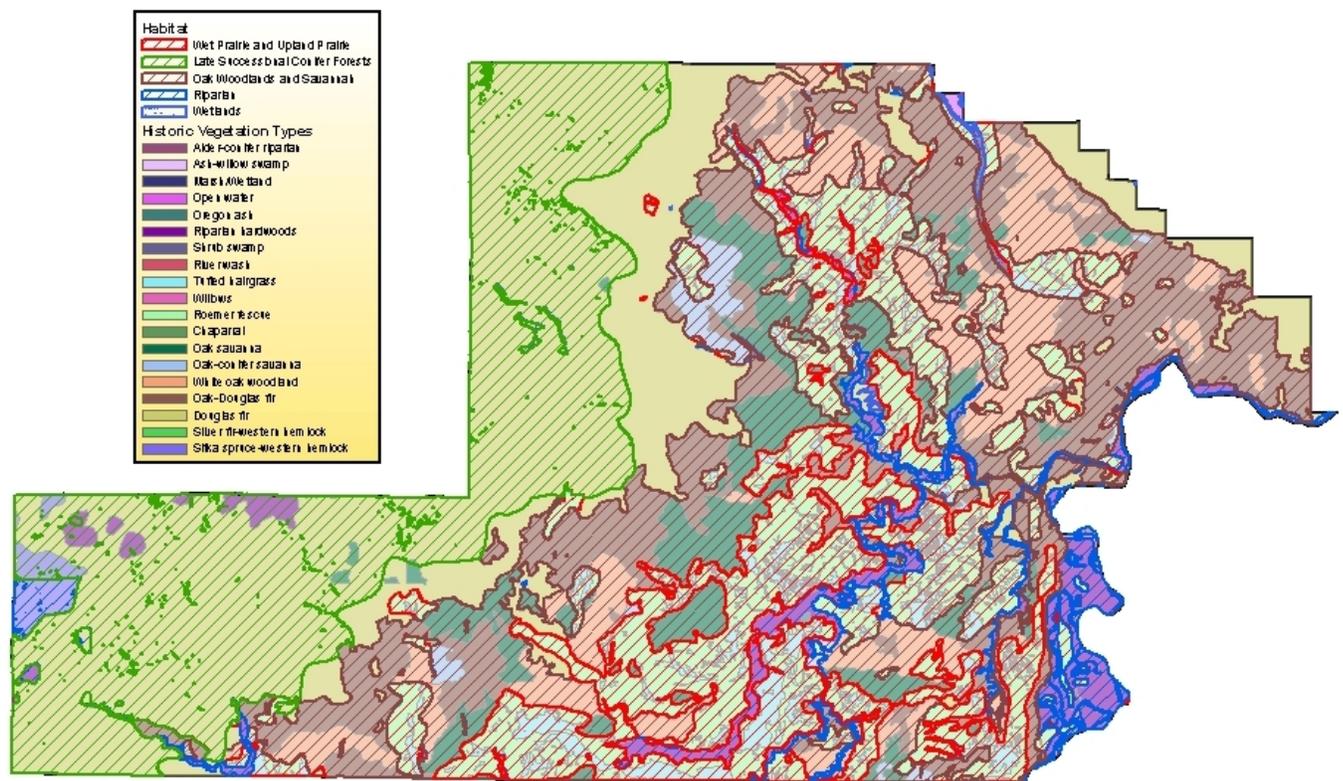
Desirable outcomes or goals met through targeting NRCS resources in an effort to address water quality would include:

- An increase of NIPF owners who have and actively follow a comprehensive forest management plan.
- Decrease in fuel loads on 20% of the NIPF acreage that is currently in poor health and drastically overstocked.
- General forest health on any land would be rated as good, which would lead to less erosion from roads (through proper planning), less invasive species and a reduced spread of disease and insects that affect tree health.

In order to address this concern, NRCS technical and funding resources will be used to address basic management and decision making for NIPF landowners. Offering access to a comprehensive written forest management plan or assisting landowners with existing plans to apply recommended practices according to schedule would result in a decrease of fuel loads in wildland-urban interface areas and increase the overall health of the forestland. Targeting activities such as forest stand management (pre-commercial thinning), brush management, all season access roads (for both management activities and to allow fire access to parts of a stand that would otherwise be difficult for emergency fire responders to reach) and vegetation management (tree and/or shrub establishment to increase diversity and to outcompete invasive species that contribute to volatility of fuels) will increase forest health overall and also decrease wildfire danger.



Foothills of Coast Range: Ken Hale, NRCS



YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORIC HABITATS AND VEGETATION

Loss of Critical Habitat

The above map represents the habitats (and associated vegetation) that occurred in Yamhill County prior to settlement by pioneers. Despite conditions that favored conifer forests, much of the Willamette Valley had been actively managed with fire by the American Indians that lived here, resulting in vast areas of prairies and savannahs. The prairies and savannahs supported vegetation and animal species that the American Indians depended on for food and medicine. Along the numerous meandering streams were wetlands and broad gallery riparian forests with diverse vegetation. Areas of oak woodlands dominated the hills where animals could find refuge. In the mid 1800's, settlers moved into the valley to live and farm. This stopped the annual burning by the American Indians and led to the end of much of the prairies and savannahs. Beginning in the 1900's wetlands were routinely drained and riparian forests cut down to make room for farming. Recently, vineyards have begun to spread across the hillsides and have taken the place of oak woodlands on the landscape.

Current habitat conditions:

- Riparian forests – 20% remaining of historic conditions
- Oak savannah and upland prairie – 1% remaining of historic conditions
- Wet prairie and wetlands -- ~1% remaining of historic conditions

Currently there are many special interest groups and conservation minded organizations that are addressing declining habitat in Yamhill County. ODFW and USFWS are also addressing the loss of habitat through their Conservation Strategy and Partners Program respectively.

Desired Future Conditions

Desirable outcomes or goals met through targeting NRCS resources in an effort to address water quality would include:

- Long term conservation and protection of remaining native habitats – no net loss from conversion to other uses.
- Restoration of remaining native habitats that have been degraded by invasive species, encroachment from conifers, contaminants, etc.
- Increase of habitat connectivity for T&E species that depend on these native habitats.
- Increase in awareness and knowledge of the value of these habitats by the public.

In order to address this concern, NRCS technical and funding resources will be used to identify and address conservation and restoration of these native habitats. Offering access to a technical knowledge and funding to address restoration or protection to landowners who have remnants of these declining habitat types on their property will result in more areas being conserved for wildlife, and restored to increase the quality of that habitat for the wildlife. Specifically, NRCS will increase outreach efforts to landowners to provide them with information concerning WRP and other easement programs, and to provide them information concerning funding sources for restoration in order to ensure that landowners who have habitat on their land know that changing the land use is not the only available option. NRCS will also provide more educational resources for the general public to access to increase awareness and knowledge of these habitats.



Oak Tree photo: Dean O'Reilly, Yamhill SWCD

Section V: Prioritization of Natural Resource Problems and Desired Outcomes

Utilizing a locally led approach, and in partnering with many agencies and organizations, NRCS has prioritized natural resource concerns for Yamhill County in order to address the problems where we can have the greatest impact. Locally-led conservation is based on the principle that local people make the best decisions for their own communities because they are the people who are affected by the issues in their area. They are the people who see the outcomes of decisions made. And they are the people who NRCS turns to in an effort to prioritize natural resource problems so that the NRCS can invest their resources in the most effective way.

The locally led process in Yamhill County involved input from:

- Producers
- Concerned citizens
- Local Government
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Private Conservation Organizations
- Community Special Interest Groups
- Tribal Representatives

Based on annual meetings held over the last several years, and from comments and ideas that NRCS receives daily, we have been able to identify the natural resource problems that are the most important to Yamhill County and to define desired outcomes in addressing those natural resource problems. The producers we work with are ready and willing to address these issues on their lands and our partners are ready to collaborate on measures to address the natural resource concerns.

Priority Resource Concerns (as identified through the locally led process)

First Priority – Water Quality and Water Quantity

- Addressing these issues simultaneously will increase our effectiveness in solving these issues.
- Local staff has access to partners that have the scientific knowledge of these issues and resources that will allow monitoring of the resource to enable NRCS to see if its investment is effective or if other resources may have to be used.
- Water quality and quantity have a direct impact on every person who lives or works in Yamhill County.
- Practices that will have the biggest impact on these issues are also the practices that will have the longest term impact. Management practices address these concerns by changing the way a producer makes decisions for their operations and will last far beyond the initial funding investment.
- Legislation and regulations, both state and local, support the prioritization of these issues and the resources that NRCS will invest in these resources.
- By prioritizing and addressing water quality and water quantity, NRCS will be meeting national, state and local agency objectives.

Second Priority – Forest Health

- Addressing forest health will have a cascading effect and will eventually lead to addressing other resource concerns such as wildfire risk in wildland urban interface areas. A healthy managed forest will also prevent erosion, reduce spread of invasive species, air quality and conservation of forested wildlife habitat.
- Local staff has both the required knowledge and access to partners that also have the required knowledge of forest health issues. Partners also have resources that will allow NRCS to monitor the resource to ensure that its investment is having results on the resource issue.
- Over 1/3 of the total acreage of Yamhill County is forested. Traditionally, these landowners have been “over looked” by NRCS.
- Practices that will have the biggest impact on forest health issues are also the practices that will have the longest term impact. Forest Management Plans, written by a forester who has extensive knowledge about the best management practices in forested land will address many of the concerns currently having the largest impact on forest health by changing the way a landowner makes decisions for their land and will last far beyond the initial funding investment.
- Legislation and regulations, both state and local, support the prioritization of these issues and the resources that NRCS will invest in these resources.
- By prioritizing and addressing forest health, NRCS will be meeting national, state and local agency objectives.

Third Priority – Loss of Critical Habitat

- Addressing loss of critical habitat now will save the habitat that remains and will allow NRCS to partner with several other agencies and conservation groups that are currently addressing this issue.
- Local staff has access to partners that have the scientific knowledge of these issues and resources that will allow monitoring of the resource to enable NRCS to measure the success of its investment on an ongoing basis.
- Loss of critical habitat is a current “hot topic” and is therefore in the eye of the public via media, published informational resources, etc.
- Loss of critical habitat has reached a point that if not addressed, the habitats will be lost forever. Conserving/protecting and restoring these habitats now will be less expensive than trying to recreate habitat once it is lost. Although the associated costs for restoring these areas is high, there are enough agencies and conservation groups that are addressing this issue to allow NRCS funding to partner with other sources of funding to have the best chance of meeting the goals of saving these habitats before they are gone forever.
- Legislation and regulations, both state and local, support both the prioritization of these issues and the resources that NRCS will invest in these resources.
- By prioritizing and addressing loss of critical habitat, NRCS will be meeting national, state and local agency objectives.

Prioritization of one resource concern over another does not mean that NRCS will not address a resource concern nor put less effort into addressing a resource concern. By prioritizing these resource concerns, NRCS hopes to wisely invest the technical and funding resources it has in a manner that is both scientifically sound and benefits Yamhill County as a whole.

See Appendix A for most recent Local Workgroup minutes.

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Section VI: Conservation Implementation Strategies and Investment Portfolio

In order to achieve desired outcomes for the natural resource problems that have been identified and prioritized, specific action items will be scheduled to ensure that there is always progress forward toward the goal.

As this strategic plan is a fluid document that will adapt as things in Yamhill County change, so will the implementation strategy be adaptable. The next steps in a process are often dependent on the steps already taken and to which direction those steps have taken you. Below is an implementation strategy that lists timeframe for specific actions. From these actions an outreach plan will be finalized to assist NRCS in reaching the people who can help move us in the right direction for addressing the natural resource issues as described in this plan.

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Implementation Strategy

Actions are be scheduled by calendar years (CY).

December	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin screening and prioritization of applications Farm Bill Programs) 2. Rank applications and begin contracting process with highest ranked applications 3. Begin planning outreach strategy for next FY sign ups.
January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue planning outreach strategy for FY sign ups. 2. Begin working on long term outreach plan. 3. Continue planning process with contract participants with assistance from partners if applicable.
February	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule strategic outreach meeting with partners. 2. Contact State Office to get information on outreach assistance available to field office. 3. Determine what special interest groups or organizations can be contacted to assist in outreach.
March	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic outreach meeting with partners 2. Begin working on outreach material. (Includes outreach material in Spanish) 3. Begin planning public outreach meetings.
April	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin public outreach meetings. 2. Begin distribution of outreach material. 3. Finalize long term outreach plan.
May-September	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess practices applied from 2011 contracts. Do results show potential to reach desired outcomes? 2. Complete public outreach meetings for year. 3. Begin program application planning with applicants.
October - December	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritization, ranking and contracting for FY 2012 EQIP and WHIP. 2. Planning with FY 2012 contracts. Review of 2011 contracts to determine if any changes are needed. 3. Year end analysis of outreach success or failure. Is there a way to be more effective?
January - February	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review strategic plan. Any changes needed? 2. Review outreach plan, make any changes per review findings. 3. Contact partners with new outreach plan for feedback.
Remainder of year	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact partners for any monitoring done and assess for any changes in resource issues. 2. Continue outreach. 3. Program ranking and contracting based on predetermined priorities.
<p><i>This schedule applies for all upcoming calendar years. Calendar based on past timelines and is subject to change to meet national and state deadlines for Farm Bill Programs.</i></p>	

Outreach Strategy

This section will outline methods that will be utilized to insure program outreach is conducted in accordance with all policy, and that we reach the widest audience possible with USDA-NRCS conservation message.

Timelines for implementation of any item may vary with new programs being offered and program funding that may be available, however, the list will be reviewed annually to assure all items have been completed, and to update as needed.

NRCS will conduct business and outreach by using:

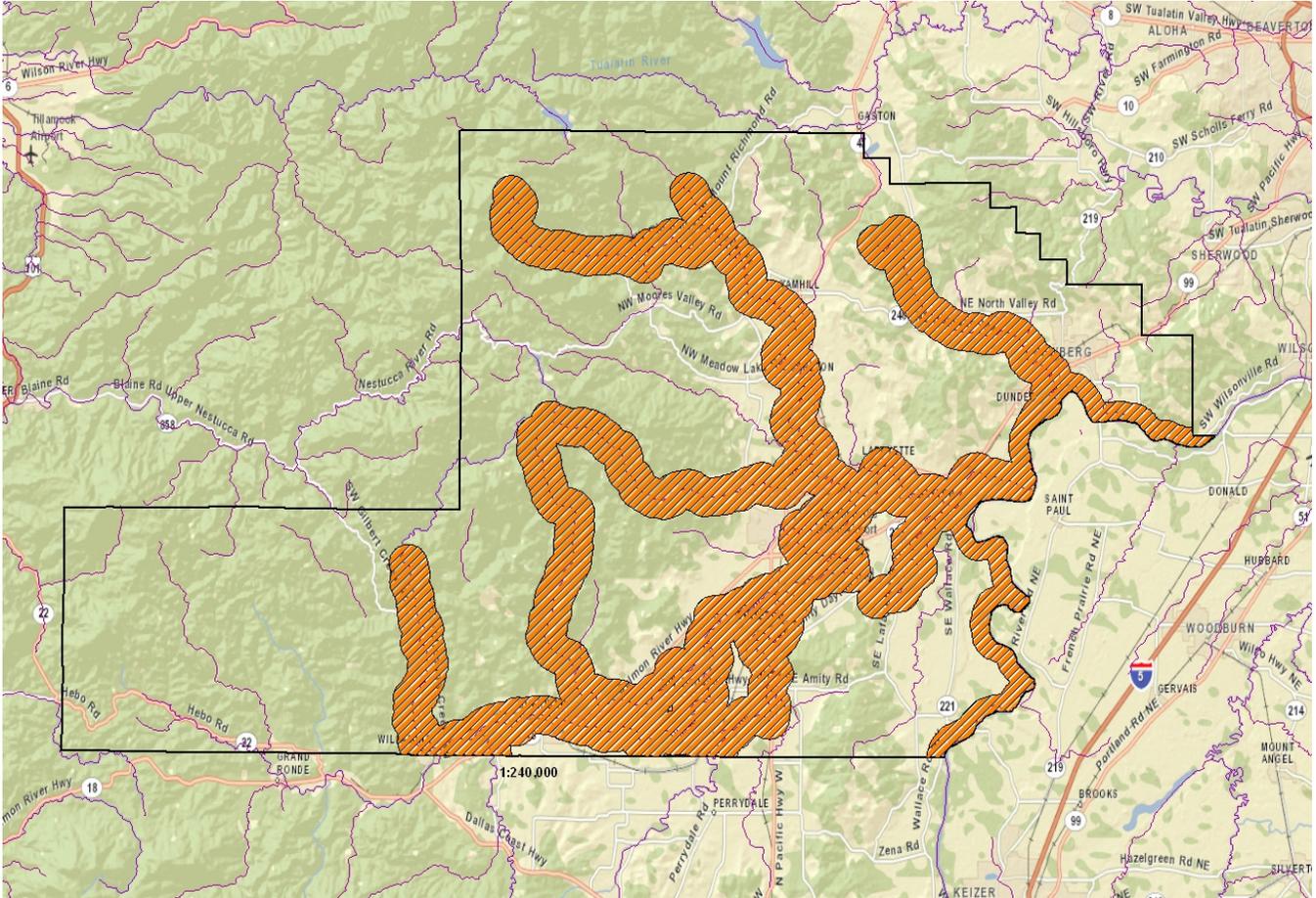
1. FSA's quarterly newsletter will be utilized to advertise Farm Bill programs, and announce signup periods. FSA mailing list reaches all of minority ag producers in the county that are registered.
2. Local Work Group meetings and Program signups will be advertised in the "Notices" section of- in order of choice (YSWCD will submit notices and will host LWG meetings per 440(GM)-500.2(A))
 - a. The News Register
 - b. The Sheridan Sun
3. Program information will be disseminated through the SWCD newsletter.
4. The SWCD have been and will continue to develop and carry out conservation workshops for both urban and rural landowners. During these presentations, any and all conservation program information is discussed and provided (relative to the presentation).
5. As time allows, presentations will be made to agricultural groups requesting such presentations. Some of the groups are:
 - a. The Nature Conservancy
 - b. Oregon Dairy Farmers
 - c. Oregon Association of Nurseryman (OAN)
 - d. Beginning Farmers & Ranchers
 - e. Women for Agriculture
 - f. Adelante Mujeres
 - g. Also Grassroots Organization in the Civil Rights binder.
6. Program Fact Sheets and Questions & Answers are available in Spanish (as much as possible these are made available to the public in the foyer) and are located in the Civil Rights binder.
7. If translation services are needed, we will utilize the names listed on the website (under Civil Rights) and also in the Civil Rights binder.
8. NRCS Public Affairs staff will provide other sources of outreach material for specific program when needed.

9. Radio spots on an AM station and also Hispanic Radio station in Woodburn and Dallas. Between both stations our message would be broadcast from Portland to Eugene, and would be an effective tool to increase outreach to Hispanic producers.
10. Personal contacts will be made using introductory publications to small and organic farmers that sell produce at the Newberg Farmer's Market, the McMinnville Farmers Market, and at the Contest Powwow (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde). This will allow us to reach producers that we may not otherwise come into contact with. We will also participate in programs that reach Yamhill County youth to contribute to agricultural and natural resource based education efforts.
11. All programmatic information will contain the up to date non-discrimination statement.
12. We will not participate/attend meetings of organizations that deny membership based on race, sex, and national origin (as amended), or that are not handicapped accessible. We will work to assure accessibility for all in our offices and meeting places.
 - PRS- Reports will be tracked at the end of each Fiscal Year to determine and evaluate priority in outreach. This information will be shared with the SWCD Board at their monthly meeting. If priority is not achieved, a report outlining the discrepancy (ies) and recommending actions will Stimulate food- and agriculturally-based community economic development;
 - Yamhill NRCS will foster new opportunities for farmers and ranchers;
 - Promote locally produced and processed foods;
 - Cultivate and educated for a healthy environment;
 - Promote and expand access to affordable fresh and local food;
 - Identify and demonstrate the connection between food, agriculture, community and our environment to have a sustainable future for generations to come.
 - Support development and implementation of new methods of managing pests and diseases.
 - Support composting and other interest to the specialty crops industry that is leading to increased productivity, new technological advancements.
 - Encouraged stakeholder participation in Local Working Groups and take their concerns and collaborative partnerships to the next level to address our resource concerns.
 - Get Conservation on the Ground and start addressing our identified resource concerns.

Investment Strategy

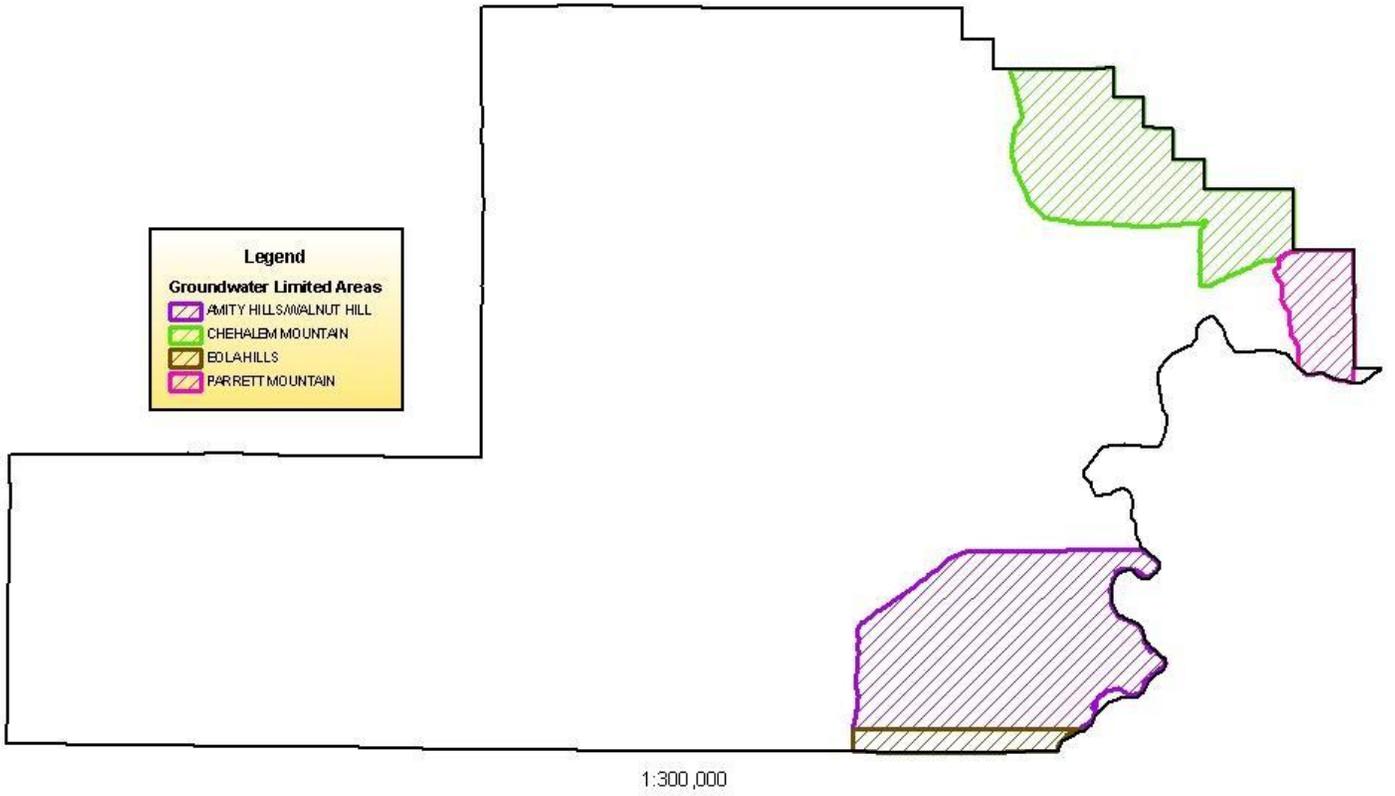
Investments of resources will be made according to priority areas as described below:

Priority Areas for Water Quality and Water Quantity (2010 – 2015)



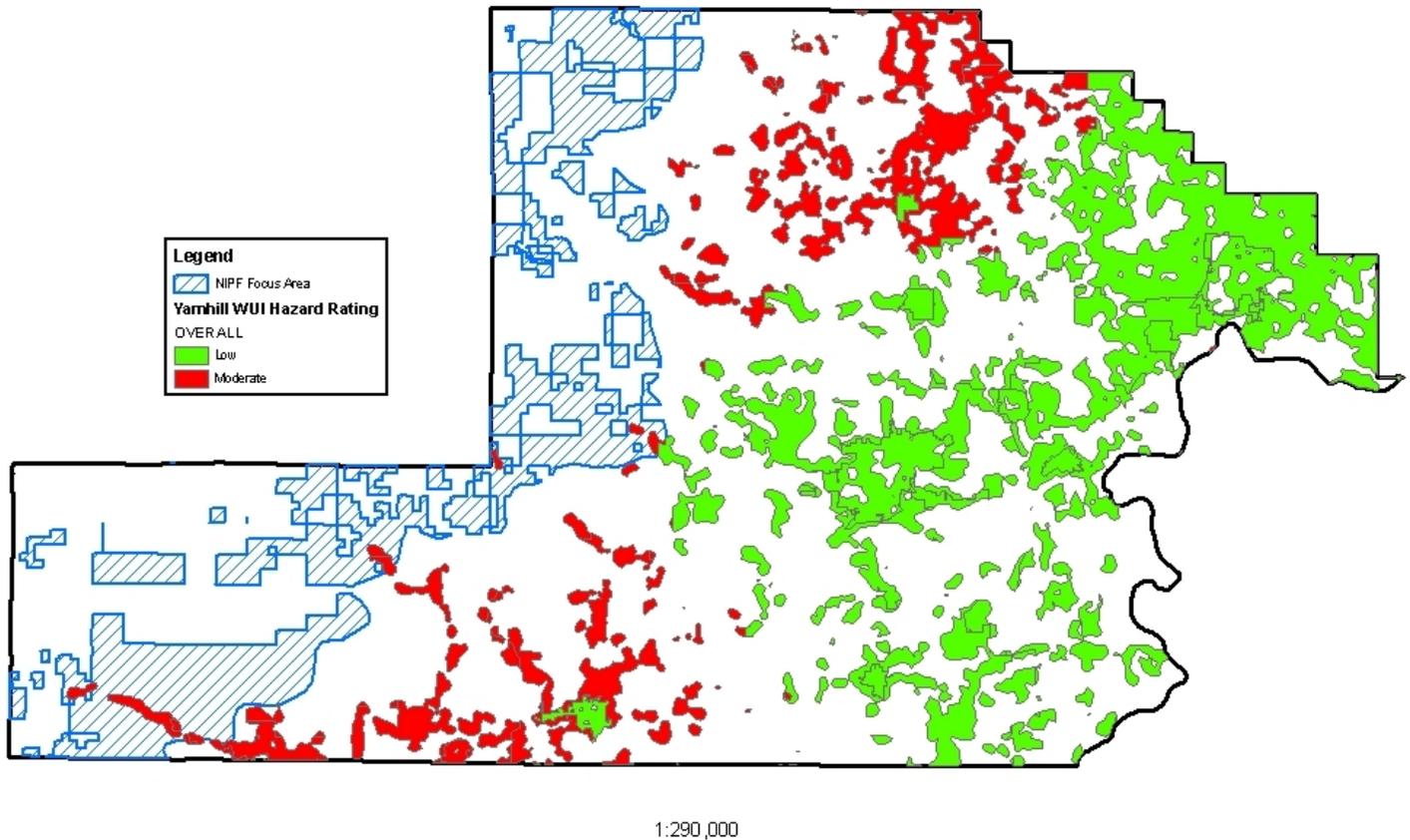
EQIP Investments

- High Priority for operations within 1 mile of a 303(d) listed Water Quality Limited Stream.
- Medium Priority for operations on streams not listed as water quality limited but that drain into a water quality limited stream.
- Ranking points will be given for operations that are addressing one or more known factors that directly contribute to a Category 4 or 5 designation on the 303d list.



Future EQIP funding will be targeted at operation within the groundwater limited areas.

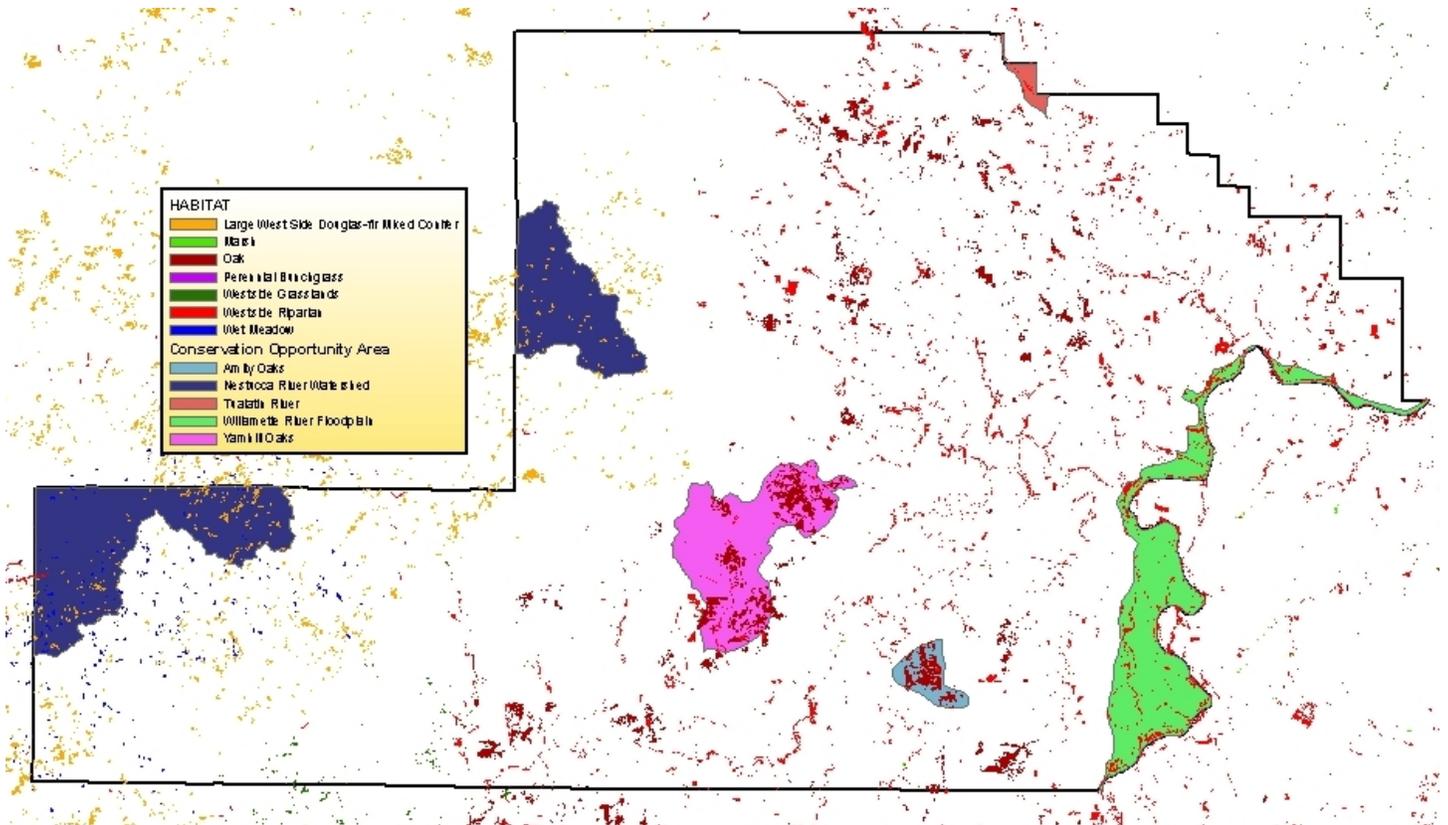
Priority Areas for Forest Health (2011 – 2016)



EQIP Investments

- NIPF operations within 5 miles of any “medium wildfire risk” designated area.
- Ranking points will favor landowners needing a forest management plan, or landowners who have an existing forest management plan that they work from.

Priority Areas for Critical Habitat Conservation



RCPP and WRE Investments

- RCPP ranking has yet to be finalized as of the date of this plan update.
- WRE applications will have priority determined based on state guidance.

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Appendix A – Local Workgroup Minutes – 2/25/2015

Local Work Group McMinnville Community Center 2/25/2015

Meeting began at 9:05 AM.

Attending the meeting:

Jacquie Fern (Oregon DEQ)
Ken Nygren (private landowner)
Paul Kingzett (private landowner)
Nancy Gramlich (Oregon DEQ)
Jeannie Taylor (private landowner)
William Spurling (private landowner)
Pam (?) (private landowner)
Allan Elliot (private landowner)
Susan Watkins (private landowner)
Tom Thomson (Agronomy consultant)
Luke Westphal (Greater Yamhill Watershed Council)
Misty Seiboldt (NRCS)
Brent O’Nion (Oregon Department of Forestry)
Zach Christensen (private landowner)

Presentations were given by the Yamhill SWCD staff and by NRCS on various programs available in the Service Center.

At 10:00 AM meeting attendees were asked to participate in giving their feedback on resource concerns and areas in the county where Farm Bill funds could be focused.

Lists compiled from participation exercise. These were added to the lists from the 2014 LWG.

Stickers were used by some attendants to identify which concerns they felt were the most important to them. Stickers are represented by asterisks (*).

Wildlife Habitat

- Goose depredation- use of alternate crops that don’t attract geese? *
- Hedgerows-increase use of **
- Slug & Vole control- Is there funding for researching the use of UV sensing equipment? Owl & Heron habitat enhancements (raptor poles).
- Creating Travel Corridors- Without fencing. Partnerships with who? Must be well planned. *
- Maintain Big Game Habitat and Corridors *
- Need to protect natural predators of deer *
- Wildlife Habitat Tax Deferral in Yamhill County?
- Importance of Pacific & Brook Lamprey – Yamhill River system is an important habitat.

2014 Concerns w/stickers
T&E Species ****
Travel Corridors ***

Water Quality

- Watershed prioritization-identify overlap of drinking water sources and important aquatic resources+ impaired waters 303(d)
- Inventory private forest legacy and current use roads-assess sediment sources
- Stream Temperature/ Buffers- looks at entire stream across uses ****
- Nutrient Management and awareness/education
- Water storage of tributaries to South Yamhill River ****
- Irrigation Efficiency
- Maintain as opposed to only installing buffers on forest and ag lands **
- Convert Ag land to Forest **
- Increase tree diversity on Douglas-fir monoculture stands
- E Coli & Other Bacteria *

2014 concerns w/stickers
Erosion **
Soils health **
Pesticide Stewardship **

Soil Health

- Crop Rotation Strategies to Increase efficient Nutrient Recycling.
- Importance of Cover Crops **

Plants

- Oak restoration-Increase acreage
- Riparian Buffers-Maintain buffers over time
- Prescribed fire in restoration projects
- Wild Fire Protection *
- Forest health treatment- Oak Looper, Laminated Root Rot, Swiss Needle Cast **
- Increase Pre Commercial Thinning where needed *
- Convert ag land to forest. **
- Ditch maintenance on roadsides *

2014 Concerns w/stickers
Oak Restoration ****
Enhancement of Remnant Prairies *
Hedgerows ***
Noxious weeds **

Other

- Promote Rain water catchment systems *
- Long term land protection ***
- Minimize incompatible land uses – ex. Landfill located adjacent to the river
- Outreach to land owners on project types we offer
- Farm related conservation issues
- Recycling of farm residues- organic and non-organic
- Noxious and invasive weed/plant control ***
- Reduce fire hazard @ home site/ forest boundaries *

2014 Concerns w/stickers

Irrigation Efficiency **

Forestland Sediment loading **

Meeting was adjourned at noon.

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