

2/28/2018

USDA-NRCS

Coos/Curry Local Work Group Meeting

Eric Moeggenberg District Conservationist opened meeting: 1:00

1. Greetings & Introductions

Introductions: Eric reviewed cover document

2. Current Interest and Review of Current Coos-Curry Conservation Implementation Strategies

- Chetco Bar Post Fire Recovery
Just recently completed, lots of communication w/ODF in Brookings
Met with several affected landowners. Follow-up meetings scheduled for possible applications.
- Cranberry Irrigation Automation
2017 applications as of today, cranberry prices are down, will still honor any application if someone comes in since it was approved
- Sek-wet-se/Sixes Forestry Collaboration
1st year of the CIS, Lots of interest with partners and Tribe
5 applications to date, large tracts of land
- Coquille Water Quality/Quantity
6th yr. of the CIS, still strong interest,
7 applications to date

Coquille Field Office funds contracted in 2017 (hand -out)

3. Current NRCS Program Opportunities

National Initiatives – separate - EQIP – Mar 16th deadline

- High Tunnels – get started earlier and extend – Eric/Heather
- Organic – transitioning into organic or are already organic
- Energy – energy audits
- CSP – producers already doing conservation, CSP assists producers wanting to do a higher-level conservation.
- CREP – FSA programs - Bret Harris
- State of Oregon –ODFW fish habitat, along a fish barring stream, now anywhere you are on a stream
Practices - riparian forest buffer – 35 min – 18’ max, set aside acreage w/ an annual payment 10-15 year contract & cost share for practices to establish or enhance the riparian area crossing, off channel water, is can grow 50% up to NTE rate, trees you will plant 25% OWEB
- Wildlife buffer – if trees can’t be grown – works hand in hand w/EQIP program
- Oregon Ag Heritage Program
- ALE (Agricultural Land Easement) - Protecting farmland, 3 parties hold the easement
- CNMP – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

Barb Grant – CREP tech w/ NRCS

Suzy Liebenberg – WRE
Heather Medina Saucedo – HFRP

4. Leveraging NRCS staff and Funding Opportunities

Eric provided explanation of Loren Unruh as our State Office contact person
Fund 405 in the state – 2018 only one Joint Chiefs, USFS & NRCS – 2017 funding is unsure at this time

RCPP – Heather, have been selected for RCPP & CSP is lined out in the current budget, collaborative strategy, partner subunits application funding for implementation of Farm Bill Programs, no admin funds (i.e. Oak habitat, Jackson Co./Lomakatsi restoration project) to be competitive. You must be addressing multiple programs, 25 RCPP's in the State

5. Round Table Discussion

6. Group Discussion Concerns for Future NRCS strategies

Ryan Greco - ODF

- Chetco Bar Fire – invasive Tanoak in 14,000 or private land, S. Curry County seedling availability & the correct seedling zone.
- Resource Fair in Brookings area had good local participation
- Sudden oak death
- North American Strain – Dead Tanoak
- European strain now showing up most potential to impact our native species
- Admin warrant

Becky Crocket- Landowner

- Landowners not cooperating when they have burned, have invasive Tanoak coming up.
- Landowners should manage the Tanoak
- How can current programs help funding? Fire Wise?
Eric – post fire recovery CIS is providing assistance, Tanoak is a native species

Heather - Reviewed Budget – In OR we have to have a Strategic

Approach (CIS) to focus where we are to be working,

Becky - Chetco Fire burned the brush that came in from the Biscuit fire, within 10 years another major fire

What funding source is David Brock Smith working with for SOD?

List of all the funding sources/resource working on Tanoak for SOD to see how can work together

What does the ODF Pathologist do?

Aerial survey flights & then ground check hot spots

How can private landowners be better informed?

ODF has done outreach

Tanoak is approaching in the brush that has come back after the fires

Joint Chiefs program would be good for this

Bret – CREP already spoke about that – Chetco Co Fire – request for emergency forest funding on private land can only get seedlings in 2021
Federal agency more reactive than proactive.

Cyndi Park– Coos W. A.

- Tidegate – fish passage along the Coquille – monitoring is in
- GWMA – just starting the plan
- Coos W.A – Slough Basin
- Invasive species
- EDR Strike team in Coos
- CWA has a nursery that they grow out species for the local area and need for coast adaptive species

Ed Hughes - Maps System

- Treatment recording online recording systems
- Grose management action plan with Grose Action Group top 30 in the
- Becky Crocket (asked the previous questions) SOD & Tanoak

Sharon Waterman– Land owner

- Tidegate Management, District drainage, can landowners be planting grasses after the fire
- ODF has provided seed
Heather – Tidegate partnerships – statewide, need a strategy – OWEB & others working on this (2yrs out), NRCS budget will determine where we could potentially go (4' diameter – cheapest \$70,000)
NOAA – Contact local reps for funding

Ed Hughes – Coquille W.A. –

How big is the problem & is this going to be the 1st question that Washington DC asks?

- Group collaborating regionally & will be able to answer the question to DC
- Will be able to come up with the strategy
- Fish prioritization is what NOAA wants
- Tax payer's dollars
- Delist Salmon and help agriculture

ODF&W – Chris Claire 4:1 slope for dike building (reduces nutria burrowing) small tidegate project – 17 acres fish money paid for most of it

Charlie Waterman – Land owner

Cost of mitigation for tidegate \$12.50 - \$14.50, so hard to move soil restoration was a half of the total budget tidegates for better drainage

ODFW – Paid for the grading work – 2:1, slopes upstream passage issue

Cassy Bouske– OSU Ex Ag

- Weed board – herbicide cost share program
- Worked with OSU for pest management plan with landowners
- Water quality, use doc for evaluating sites
- Army Worm – moves around, wants to develop monitoring program
- Norma Kline –OSU Ex Forester Sudden Oak Death SOD
Wants to educate more people on this

Horticulture businesses – Nursery sanitation & BMP's

Darren Cagley – Coquille Tribe

- Overstocked stands & being dominated by Tanoak
- Just getting started working down in Sixes, can't cut all the Tanoak if you can't remove it because of steep slopes -hack & squirt
- NRCS – keeping brush out of plantations – lop & scatter
- Right age to do release
- Fuel break – ridge road 60ft wide trim ladder fuels, log & scatter, chop

Fred Messerle – Land owner

- Tidegate – just at the beginning properly 10 years
- Progress with Statewide
- Inventory – defines problem
- 4 meetings around the state
- Get constant criteria/rules among the agencies
- Process has to ripen more
 - NRCS can only work on private land
 - Comments at tidegate meetings – interior drainage culvert size & ditch size & need to be cleaned out & will take effort
 - Subsidence – adds a volume of water – this needs to be part of the modeling
- Nutria are going to own all of it – needs to be addressed, slope 4:1 inside ditch & you can get 4:1 it is a deterrent – Nutria hatch every 4 to 6 wks, are constant problem

Craig Herman– Land Owner/ OR Cattleman

- Tidegates, drainage ditches, dikes, weir's wildlife.
- Maintain infrastructure that we have
- Maintain fish passage criteria
- Inventories are getting done – don't have 10 years
- When tidegates go out then there are no solution

Tyler Ross– NRCS Plant Materials Center PMC

- Came to listen – with budget cuts just providing information
- Project – produce western lily bulbs
- Do not provide funding
- No longer grow out for other agencies

Jessy Powers – Rogue River/Siskiyou USFS

- Shasta/Agness Draft?
- Reopen Trail
- Coquille Tribe – marking sales areas
- Chetco Fire – working on fire salvage, danger tree removal along roads, area salvage away from the road
- State good neighbor authority

- 56% wilderness area – marking units & administrating % salvage to the total amount burned 196,000 plus acres burned (probably 10%)
- Biscuit – EIS analysis & time it took (lesson Learned)
- LSR – wildlife habitat (Late Successional Reserve)
- Road system – issue in attaching fire, looking at a whole portfolio for the restoration (culverts, roads, tree planting, Tanoak on radar)
- Stewardship contracts
- County moneys
- It's management, it's not a fix
- Wilderness area – what are you doing to restore trailheads? Can't do active management in the wilderness area
- The fire was a lightning

Drew Harper– Curry Watershed Partnership

- Riparian management – ag water quality off stream watering, fencing, bio engineering with wood
- June 1st – Soil Health in Langlois Oregon – Corry Owens – NRCS, James Cassidy – OSU, geared toward pasture
- ODA SIA – Strategic implementation area Pistol river
- Ag Land within the watershed & concerns like water quality
- SIA area, they will approach landowners if they have assessed a concern or potential concern on their land with water quality
- Talk with landowners in an open house
- Aren't assessed a fine immediately

Charlie Waterman– Coos SWCD

- Small grant - \$15,000 watershed by landowner
- 319 grant – Hobos on drainages into the coquille
- Want to get Tanoak out of their areas – hack & squirt
- Improving roads
- Weed issues – common in on truck tires 9f contractor (Bonneville Power) – There are cleaning stations
- Had to go in and control gorse –stop it from being moved – BUPs there are handouts from Gorse Action Corp.

Ed Hughes - Coos WA

- Tidegates
- Coordinate with all folks, will need to rank projects, which tidegates get done in which order, Tidegate management
- NOAA, Corps – programmatic for permitting

Jim Seely– Wild Rivers Coast Alliance WRCA

- Celebration – 2012 (Kyser)
- Worked with Amy Wilson in developing – Gorse Action Group GAG which lead to an Oregon Solutions Team in 2017, 30 agencies agreed that gorse is a major problem
- 1st demo project gorse, steep banks around pacific view

- Need Fire Wise funding
- Hwy 101 at waystation – 900 yards demo project
- Gorse blossom festival – spoke about the threat, GAG – SOD can't be fighting over the same funding
- Citizen science to support reporting funded the inventory on the Coquille River
Op to pass program – Nature Conservancy the most uplift – return on investment
- Fresh Water Trust – if doing work on stream, they can provide monitoring

Ruchel Sedemyer – Coos SWCD

- 319 data collecting HOB0 data, culvert replacement, fencing
- Tech assistance recommended for funding

Chris Claire– ODFW

- Field coordination (pipeline) tidegates – Winter lake project for permitting
- Field specialist permitting & fish passage
- North Slough – need to take into consideration more things now when improving tidegates – Kill nutria & stay dry
- Outreach – shared language for landowners – acronym's
- Project – Coho salmon III tidal slough area- stream gages – fish antennas, fish behavior, juveniles to work with tidegate inventories in Coos Bay – voluntary by landowners
- Passage/Drainage issues – chance to participate
- Optimize agency funding
- ODFW does not have the funding, to do the inventory
- Restoration design and pasture management – NRCS pasture management
- Pasture drainage is fish passage & vice versa

Additional Notes

Craig Herman -

- Significant need for NRCS to have a plan and provide financial assistances for replacement of standard tidegate with tidegate that provide for fish passage
- Promote financial support for maintenance of drainage ditches
- Both of these two items will provide for fish habitat
- Field infrastructure is a dike along river bank
- Maintaining dikes with a proper slope and vegetation on the bank should also be a funded by NRCS

Eric – Collaborating with Coos Curry Districts and Watersheds to write a Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) for gorse

Eric – Thanked everyone for their input, being considerate and listening to others and everyone's commitment to Coos & Curry counties environment.

Meeting ended at 3:50

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

