

Meeting notes: Jefferson County Local Working Group Meeting 2018

February 22, 2018

Purpose of meeting discussion:

- Overview of strategic conservation concept
- Identify current natural resource issues and concerns
- Share partner efforts in natural resources
- Help NRCS identify future conservation implementation strategy areas
 - There was a lot of discussion about the concept and value of the strategic approach to conservation. Many in the group felt that it was too limiting in where financial assistance could be available. People that were ready and able with good water conservation projects could not be funded because they were not in the right area. It was noted that any of the water saved in NUID was water that could be available to the Deschutes River. Concern was raised that people could not plan ahead for future projects not knowing when their area might have funds available. Tom talked about the challenge of showing public benefit and cumulative effects with scattered projects.
- Irrigation Efficiency
 - **Where is the biggest bang for the buck? When we move on from Agency Plains?**
 - Campbell Creek
 - Area above Cove Palisades
 - S. Juniper Butte
 - Culver Area, Lateral 41
 - Feather Lane is a NUID priority
 - Areas identified with potential issues in the Pesticide study
 - Many in the group wanted to pursue a “shotgun” approach where irrigation projects throughout NUID would be possible.
 - High level Irrigation water management technology
 - Tail water capture and reuse
- Uplands
 - Invasive species, Juniper encroachment
 - Upper Willow Creek (John is working on projects in the area)
 - Long term strategies for the regrowth 5-6 years post-cut.
 - Burning?

Discussion of ongoing efforts and programs

- JSWCD:
 - OWEB small grants
- NRCS programs
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): N. Agency Plains CIS last year, Seasonal High tunnel, Organic Initiative, Energy
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) provides 5 year contracts to producers with payments to support existing conservation efforts and incentives to apply new conservation. Applicants must meet conservation thresholds with their current management to be eligible New stewardship evaluation and planning concepts,

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