

Local Work Group Meeting Notes

02/27/2018

1. Introductions and review of purpose by Mike Burton
2. Agency Reports
 - a. ODF – My Blue Mountain Woodlands engaging landowners. Currently thinning on the east end of ODF's district. Mike reviewed East Face background, USFS and ODF partnership in the Elkhorns.
 - b. ODFW – Two large projects; Hall Ranch restoration – a portion of Catherine Creek flows in the barrow ditch of Hwy203. Looking at moving the Hwy to provide a floodplain. Seeking funding. Bowman property near Starkey is looking at more in-stream work and NRCS for upland water developments. Fly Creek fencing is being built as well.
 - c. OSU Extension – planning crop tour and integrated IPM workshop as the result of grower interest in IPM.
 - d. OWRD – Wants additional measuring at POD's. Place-based water use planning is a big emphasis.
 - e. ODFW – Working on bull trout habitat rang and life history. Interbreeding with brook trout is a concern and are currently studying range of hybridization. Other states are looking at brook trout control. ODFW will be doing pilot projects. "YY" brook trout may be released to control population expansion.
 - f. SWCD – Willow Creek is the new ODA "focus area". Dry Creek stream restoration is being designed for summer implementation. Also working on the physical limitations of the hydrology on the GR River with dike setbacks.
 - g. GRMW – continue to play coordination role for implementation of ATLAS identified projects. Funding for near-term projects through BPA will likely remain consistent. Future focus areas are downstream on GR River in areas with Chinook habitat areas in the GR valley. Also involved in Place Based Water planning effort and a 25 year project synthesis. Working on a project on Whiskey Creek with NRCS.
 - h. CTUIR – Bird Track Springs/Jordan Creek Ranch project is a major focus area. Expanding on USFS project upstream near Fly Creek. Working on a floodplain reconnection project on private land up Winter Creek. Landowner is transferring water rights to in-stream and working with Tri-County CWMA for weed control. Snorkel surveys were cancelled in GR109 due to no visibility. Lamprey will be released in the GR River and Catherine Creek. Adults don't just return to their

native stream but to where the young are. CTUIR is working with ODFW on take limits for bull trout.

- i. USFS – Several large projects on mainstem of GR River. The goal is to increase the implementation of GR River projects in the next few years. Sheep Creek collaborative project is seeking input on restoration activities. Continuing to complete thinning projects on the East-Face and participate in place-based water use planning effort. Working with ODOT on relocating Hwy 203 and paving the Catherine Creek snowpark.
3. NRCS program update
 - a. Conservation Stewardship Program
 - i. 17 Active contracts
 - ii. 5 New 2018 contracts
 - iii. \$264,312 payments for 2017
 - iv. 32,312 acres
 - v. No applications for 2018 – deadline March 16
 - b. Regional Conservation Partnership Program
 - i. 12 contracts
 - ii. \$255,553 obligated
 - iii. \$39237 payments to date
 - iv. 3244 acres
 - v. 14 applications for 2018
 - vi. \$ 572,982 estimated cost
 - c. Implementation Strategies
 - i. East Face
 1. 2177 acres completed of 3010 acres contracted
 2. 6 contracts left to complete of 30 total
 - ii. Irrigation
 1. 2 active contracts with payments of \$48,575
 - d. Initiatives
 - i. Drought
 1. 9 contracts with payments of \$94,145
 - ii. High Tunnel
 1. 1 contract with payments of \$7,498
 - iii. Organic
 1. 2 Applications for 2018
 - iv. Aspen
 1. 1 contract
 4. Potential Conservation Implementation Strategies for 2019
 - a. Willow Creek, 55,332 acres
 - b. 8,283 acres of surface water rights

- c. 1,664 acres of existing linear systems
- d. 2,818 acres of potential conversion to pivots
- e. 6,619 acres of potential wheel line upgrades

Support for this CIS was expressed by Dale Eisiminger, local farmer