

AGENDA
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
LOCAL WORKGROUP MEETING
FEBRUARY 14TH, 2019, 1:00 -3:00

MINUTES

1:00 pm – meeting called to order by Chris Mundy- NRCS District Conservationist for Crook County

Commenced introductions of all participants

Chris Mundy gave an overview of the Local Work Group Process and how it is used to direct Farm Bill Dollars.

Chris explained the history of the Strategic Approach to Conservation in Crook County from 2010 until present time. This included details of the Conant Creek Watershed CIS, The Crook County Aspen Restoration CIS, The Sage Grouse Initiative as implemented in Crook County, The Crook County Mule Deer Habitat Improvement CIS (still active), The McKay Creek Steelhead/on-farm irrigation CIS (on schedule for implementation on 2021), the pending Joint Chief proposal (we should know something in a couple weeks) and the active RCPP on the Lower Crooked River.

Chase Duncan gave an overview of the Grizzly CIS he is working on – and explained that they have been granted a USFS fuel reduction grant that should dovetail nicely into the CIS. Chris and Chase arranged to meet next week to work on the CIS details.

Garry Sanders gave an overview of the Lower Crooked River RCPP. He has sent out 150 landowner letters and will be following up with landowners who respond. They have developed one landowner plan for delivery to NRCS and he will be applying for funding this year. Pelton Grants are due April 1st and he is hoping to receive some additional funds from that source.

Andy Gallagher gave an overview of the Camp Creek Restoration Atlas explaining how it will assist to identify restoration needs in that area. They have received an OWEB grant for this product and are working on it now. This atlas will allow them to identify areas that will fold nicely into a CIS or grant application in the future. He should have a draft out by late spring. If we receive the Joint Chief proposal, the same principal will be used and the Camp Creek Atlas will be used as a model.

At this point, Chris asked for input or suggestions from all present. Everyone was asked if they have anything to contribute.

Chase – he is good with the Grizzly and Two Chief

Garry – working with landowners on the South Fork Crooked on Fish Passage – long discussion on creating a CIS to address the problem, No fish data so might be hard to justify but it would be a good project. ODFW is really interested – cost might be high.

Mark Peterson – ditto on Garry

Darren Mitchell- No Comment

Sam – No Comment.

Andy Neary- Interested in something near Grizzly – has been working with landowners in the area. And might have some that would fit well with the CIS Chase is working on.

Andy Gallagher – in 2021 atlas for Maury's based on Camp Creek and whether the Two Chief gets funded.

There are fish passage issues in Upper Ochoco Creek that have been identified – there should be 10-12 structures above Ochoco Creek – these landowners are also interested in restoration projects. They are applying for a grant that would pay for the engineering on structures/fish passage – a phase 2 would treat the rest of the problem.

The Forest Service is beginning the Mill Creek planning process – this might be a good opportunity to partner with landowners across ownership boundaries – similar to the Maury Two Chief proposal. The Watershed Council did a bunch of stuff on Mill Creek about 10 years ago with ODFW for fish passage. There is also a need for screens on Marks Creek and Mill Creek – about 20 Screens needed.

Greg Jackal – it has been almost 10 years since the original Maury Mule Deer initiative – he Anticipates Pittman Robertson money will continue to be stable – should get 200k or so with the PR money. More mitigation money will be showing for solar development – Easement programs seem to be a good fit for that.

Andy Neary – does TNC have anything to do with the easement? Jackal explained they are adjacent to the current easement.

Rachel Davee – Thinks we should consider the Ochoco Project as a future CIS.

Eric – aske if the 3% Sage Grouse increase in the Paulina/12 mile PAC should be marketed better – discussion ensued about the number not being statistically valid.

Eric offered to Critique Chase's Grizzly CIS.

2:15pm Meeting adjourned.