

A photograph of a wind farm at sunset. The sky is a gradient of blue and orange, with a crescent moon in the upper left. The silhouettes of many wind turbines are visible against the bright horizon.

2019 NRCS Gilliam and Wheeler Local Workgroup Meeting

February 13, 2019

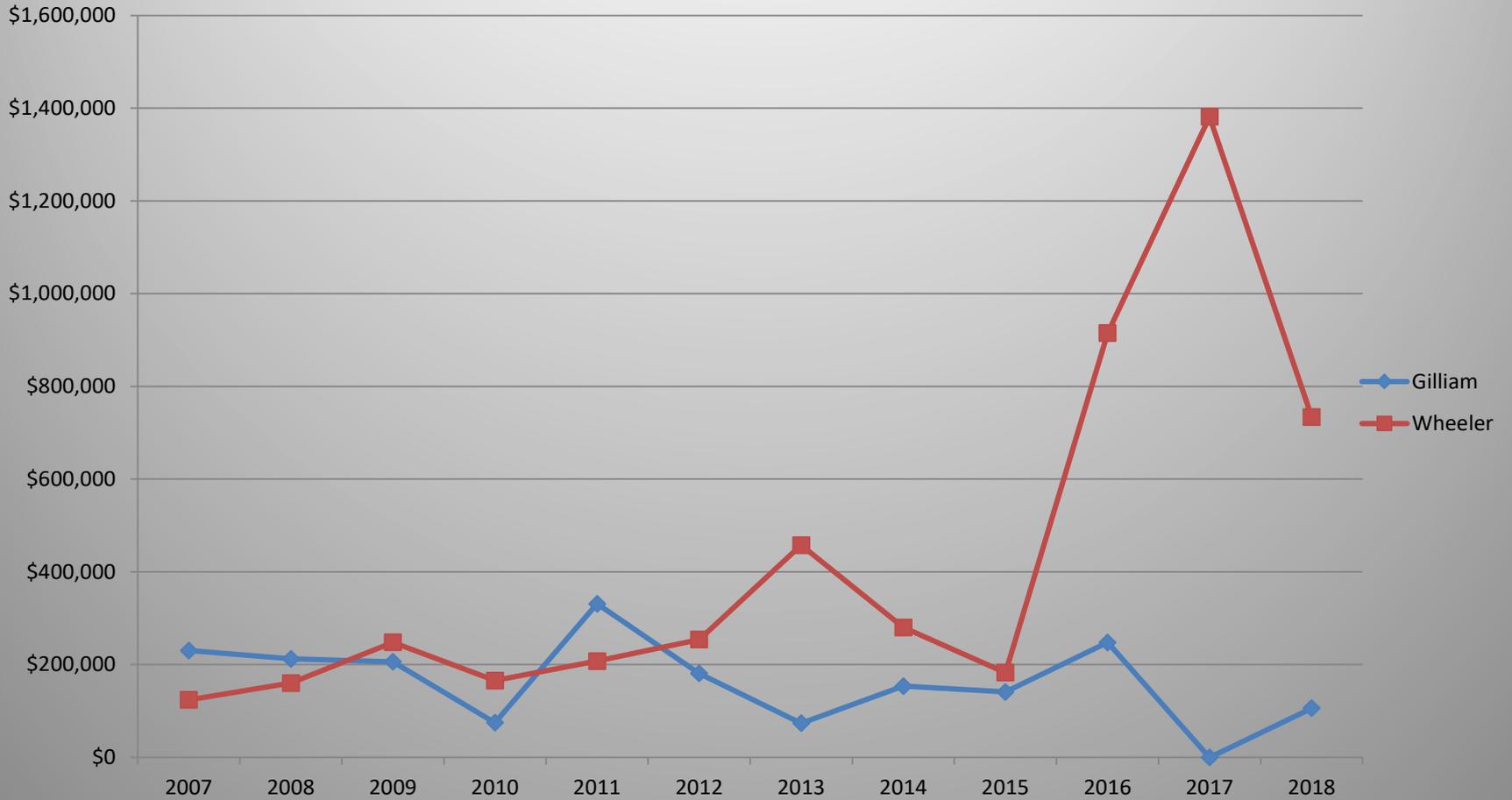
AGENDA

- 1:00 p.m. Arrive, get settled and network
- 1:05 p.m. Welcome/Housekeeping/Introductions – Damon Brosnan, NRCS
- 1:15 p.m. Introductions of NRCS staff and Partner staff
- 1:25 p.m. Meeting Objectives and Protocols – Kacee Lathrop, facilitator
- 1:30 p.m. EQIP Snapshot –2015 – 2017 Damon Brosnan, NRCS
- 2:00 p.m. Group Brainstorm
 - 1.) Irrigated Cropland
 - 2.) Dryland Crop
 - 3.) Rangeland
 - 4.) Forestry
- 2:30 p.m. Discuss Geographic Priorities/Focus Areas and Discuss Future Opportunities
- 2:45 p.m. Partners discuss priorities, projects and the benefits of working with multiple conservation partners
- 3:00 p.m. Summary of the Day – Kacee Lathrop, facilitator
- 3:15 p.m. Adjourn

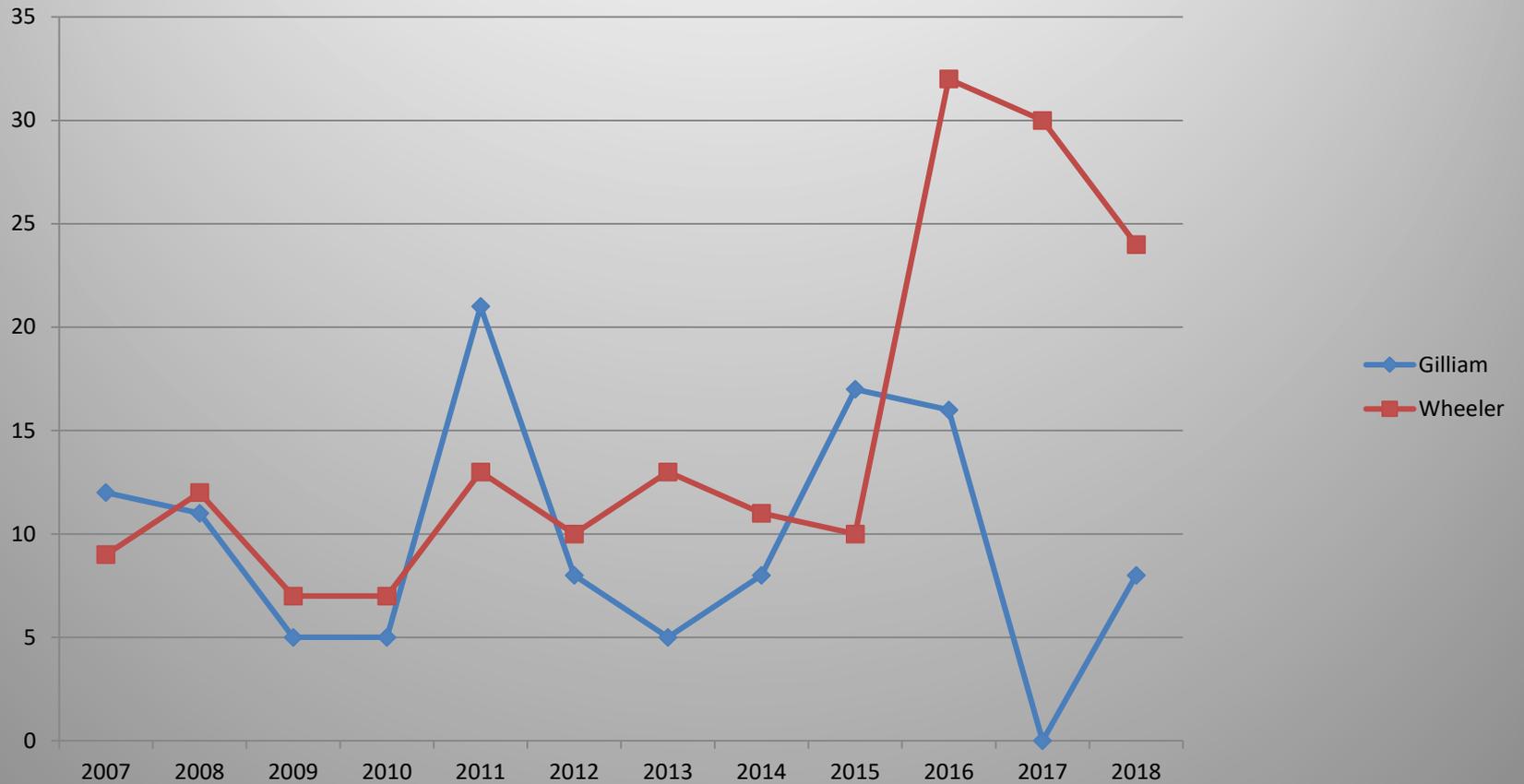
PAST RESOURCE CONCERNS WHEELER/GILLIAM COUNTY

- Juniper Invasion
- Annual Grass Invasion
- Irrigation Efficiency
- Forestland Health
- Insufficient Livestock Water
- Improper Pasture Utilization
- Cropland Efficiency

EQIP FUNDING LEVELS GILLIAM AND WHEELER COUNTIES



EQIP CONTRACTS AWARDED IN GILLIAM AND WHEELER COUNTIES



2018 WHEELER COUNTY EQIP FUNDING POOLS

- One funding pool, RCPP, with three different subsets: irrigation, uplands, and forestry
 - 13 applications
 - Treating resource concerns on rangeland, forest land, and irrigated crop land
- Kahler Uplands is the other funding pool
 - 11 applications
 - Treating resource concerns on rangeland and forest land

RCPP Continued

- **NRCS Results:**
 - 1) 5208 acres of brush management contracted/completed
 - 2) 103,229 feet of irrigation conveyance contracted/completed
 - 3) 495 acres of forest stand improvement contracted/completed
 - 5) 69,323 feet of livestock pipeline contracted/installed
 - 6) 74 spring developments contracted/completed
 - 7) 71 troughs and/or cisterns contracted/installed

Partners:

OWEB

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs

Farm Service Agency

Project Area

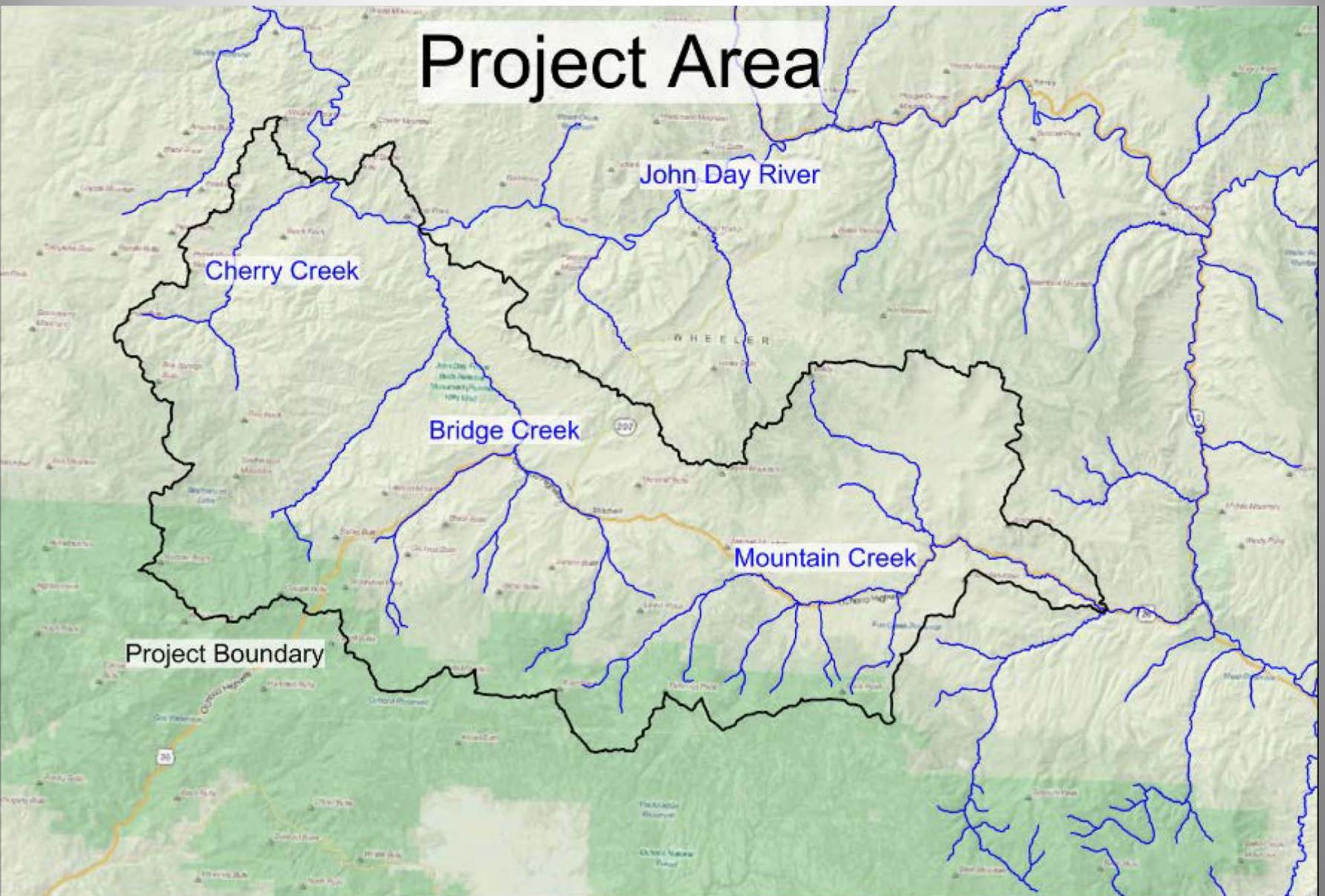
Cherry Creek

John Day River

Bridge Creek

Mountain Creek

Project Boundary

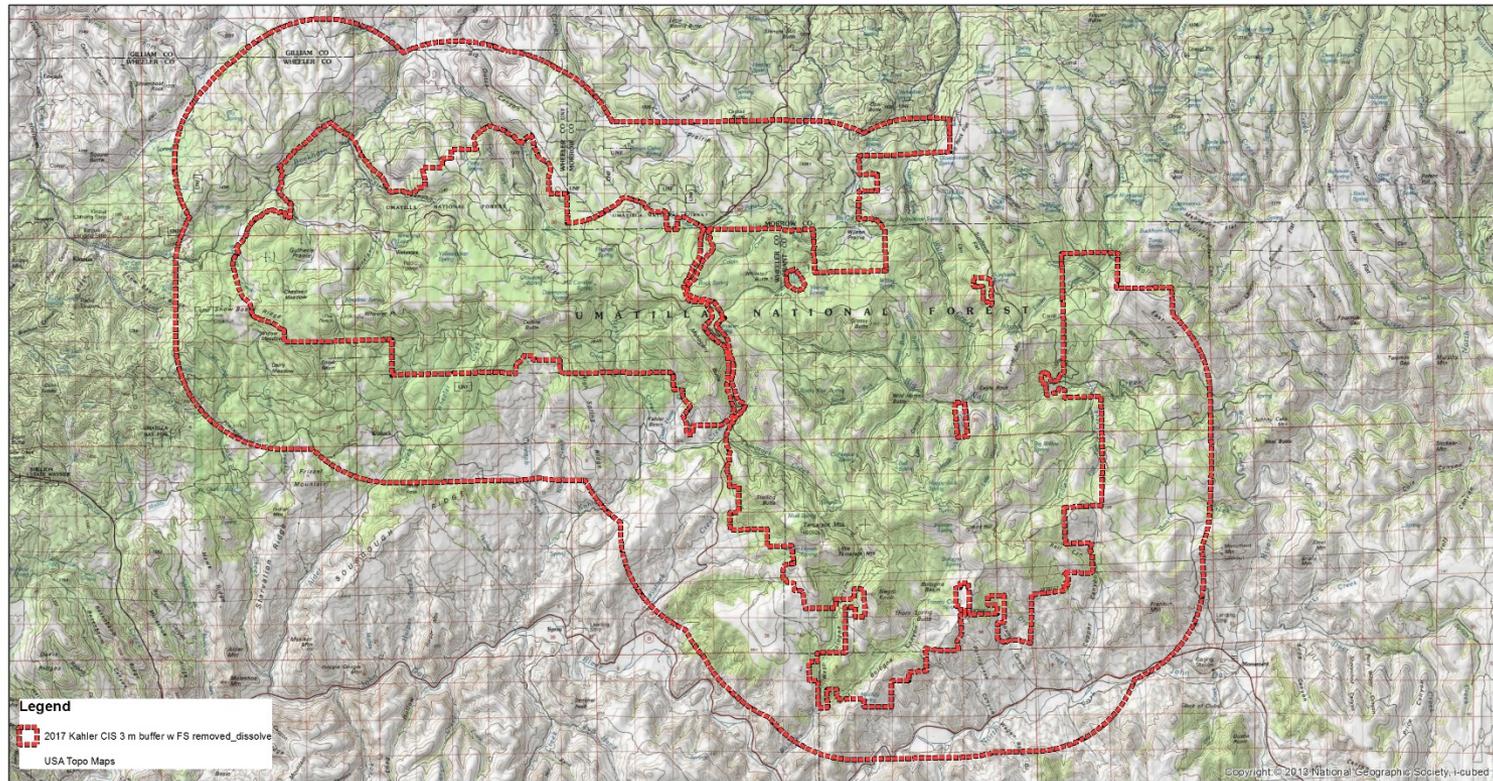


KAHLER UPLANDS PROJECT MAP

Field Office: CONDON SERVICE CENTER
Agency: USDA/NRCS

KAHLER UPLANDS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT AREA MAP

Date: 3/21/2016



34,000 0 34,000 68,000 102,000 136,000
Feet



KAHLER UPLANDS PROJECT

Multi-County (Wheeler, Morrow, Grant)

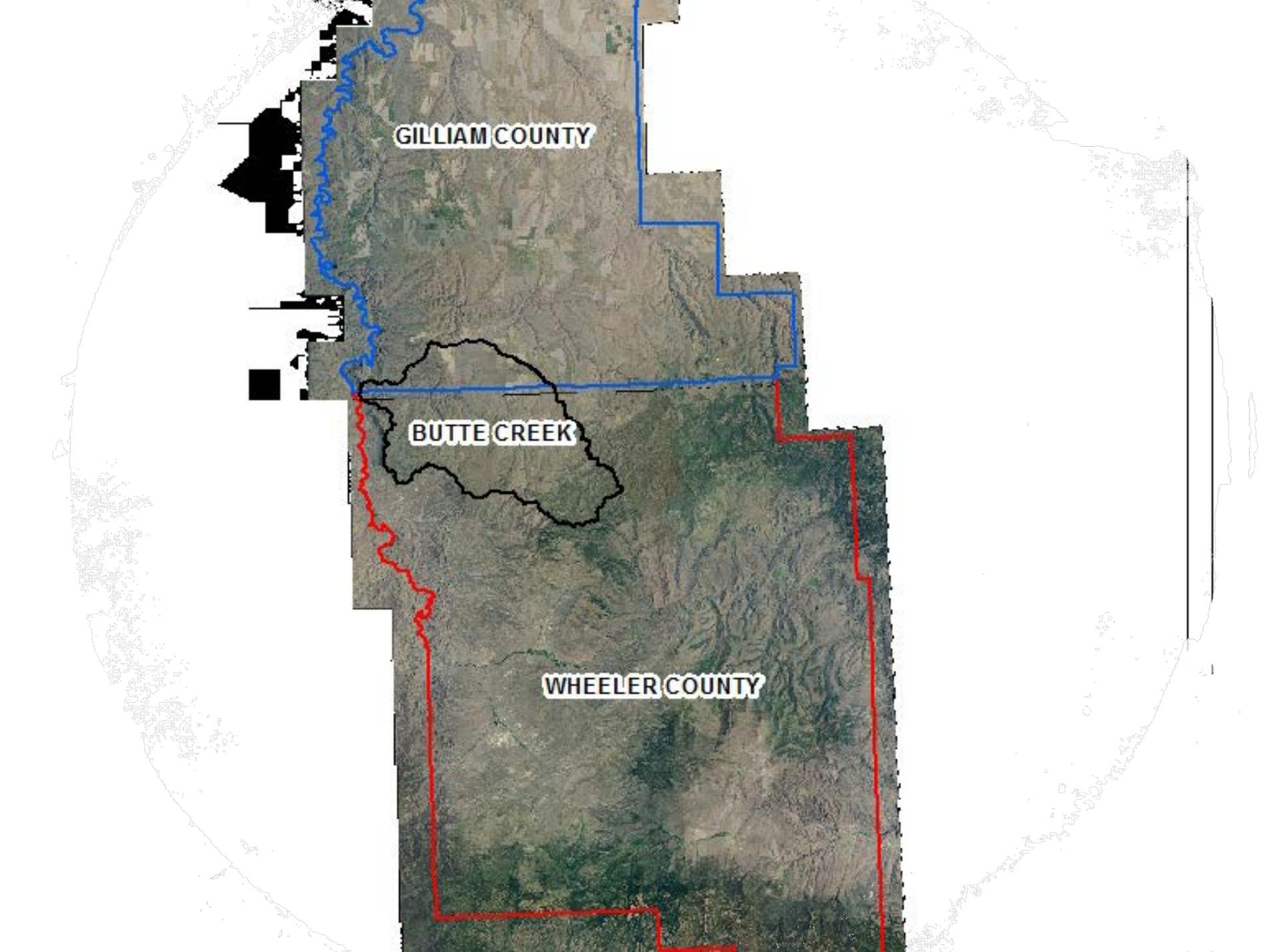
- **Funds Requested:**

- 2017= \$200,000
- 2018= \$400,000
- 2019= \$400,000
- 2020= \$200,000

- * Actual FY funds disbursement may differ due to multiple, external factors and the level of landowner involvement and practice implementation

- **Practices will include:**

- Access Control (472)- to be used for use exclusion while range seeding are being established.
- Brush Management (314)- to remove any invasive conifer trees
- Fence (382)- to aid in use exclusion on Aspen stands or long term grazing management plan
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)- to treat invasive weeds prior to range seeding
- Prescribed Burning (338)- may be used to help clean up fields and prep for herbicide application or seeding
- Prescribed Grazing (528)- for long term management plan on treated acres/management units.
- Range Seeding (550) – seed multi-species and multi-functional group mix.
- Woody Residue Treatment (384)- to remove conifer slash from site.
- Forest Stand Improvement (666) – pre-commercial thinning of overstocked pine stands



A topographic map showing the geographical features of Gilliam, Wheeler, and Butte counties in Oregon. The map is color-coded by elevation, with brown and tan representing higher elevations and green representing lower elevations. A blue line outlines the county boundaries for Gilliam and Wheeler counties. A red line outlines the boundary of the Butte Creek watershed, which is a sub-region within Wheeler County. The text labels are in white with black outlines.

GILLIAM COUNTY

BUTTE CREEK

WHEELER COUNTY

2019 BUTTE CREEK UPLANDS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Wheeler and Gilliam Counties

- **First year of funding is 2019**
- **Funds Requested:**
 - 2019: \$291,000
 - 2020: \$361,000
 - 2021: \$297,000
 - 2022: \$117,000
 - * Actual FY funds disbursement may differ due to multiple, external factors and the level of landowner involvement and practice implementation
- **Practices will include:**
 - Brush Management (314)- to remove any invasive conifer trees
 - Fence (382)- to aid in the effective grazing of expired CRP grasss stands
 - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)- to treat invasive weeds prior to range seeding
 - Prescribed Burning (338)- may be used to help clean up old grass fields, prep for herbicide application, seeding and to also treat juniper encroachment
 - Range Seeding (550) – seed multi-species and multi-functional group mix.
 - Forest Stand Improvement (666) – pre-commercial thinning of overstocked pine stands
 - Livestock water Developments (516, 614) – to facilitate the proper grazing utilization of native range and expired CRP stands.

FUTURE TREATMENT IDEAS/AREAS IN WHEELER COUNTY

- Prescribed burning funding pool?
- Irrigation issues/areas?
- Other ideas?

2018 GILLIAM COUNTY EQIP FUNDING POOLS

- **Ferry Canyon Conservation Implementation Strategy**
 - \$107,000 Requested for funding in 2018
 - There were 8 contracts awarded
 - \$231,000 Requested for funding in 2019
 - \$262,000 Requested for funding in 2020
 - **Practices Planned for Cost Share:**
 - Brush Management – both juniper cutting and blackberry treatments
 - Vegetative Firebreaks
 - Road Treatments- hard surfacing, water bars, culverts
 - Beaver Dam Analogues
 - Water Developments- spring developments, solar pumps, water troughs
 - Fence on expired CRP stands to facilitate grazing
 - Re-seeding of expired CRP stands to establish grasses suited to livestock grazing

GILLIAM FUTURE IDEAS?

- 10 Mile/HAY CREEK/30 Mile RANGELAND/STREAM HEALTH?
- GRASS BANK IDEA/PRESCRIBED GRAZING?
- Soil health initiative and cover cropping?
- MORE JUNIPER?
- **John Day Side Canyons RCPP?**
 - **Partners will discuss**

OTHER RESOURCE CONCERNS/Areas of Interest?

- Annual grass invasion?
- Crop land concerns?
- CRP takeout? (starting in 2017)

STATE	COUNTY	FIPS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL - All Years
OREGON	GILLIAM	41021	72.28	10825.69	984.7	234.4	21260.47	16249.6	14698.38	4091.2	52.88	48.4	585.69	2132.2	454	40.99	83.99	71814.87

- Riparian Areas?
- Wildlife Concerns? Habitat? Numbers?
- Areas of opportunity?

Meeting Minutes

as provided by participants

Rangeland

- Fire planning for infrastructure
 - Level areas for disc lines
 - Adding machinery gates
 - Water availability
- Livestock water developments are always needed
- Continuing weed issues and more biological controls are needed, new promising ones on the horizon for annual grasses but not available right now
- Juniper removal is always needed and will continue to be a resource concern
- Sagebrush removal from the disconnected floodplains
- Predator control: possible with new Farm Bill? Wild pig control? Will research when rules are written for new Farm Bill.
- Trespass issues with recreationists on the John Day River
- Annual grasses continue to be an issue
 - Any viable control/kill options?
 - Not many and none that are new and viable
- BDA's were discussed
 - District discussed plan going forward with additional funding
 - Landowner willingness to try but can be damaging to infrastructure for irrigation
- Elk fence needed for migration during the winter
 - Laydown considered

Meeting minutes continued

Cropland

- Windbreaks on cropland to stop/decrease drifting of snow
- Technology improvements were briefly discussed: new spray technology?
- Cover crops and the continuing need for more local, relevant data on species and results

Irrigation

- VFD pumps
 - Energy audit discussed and the cost share available
 - Contract after audit is for implementing changes

PARTNER EFFORTS

- Lonerock Prescribed Burn
- Lonerock Monitoring
- Kahler Uplands grant through Watershed Council
- BDA's on Bear Creek in RCPP project area
- Bio Char in RCPP project area
- Sustainable Northwest and juniper marketing and milling
- FIP (Focused Investment Project) awarded to John Day Partnership
 - Potentially \$4 million over 6 years for projects in the Butte Creek/30 Mile watersheds
- Partnership between Morrow SWCD and Gilliam SWCD to provide, under contract, HEL compliance data to NRCS on an annual basis