



# 2020 NRCS GILLIAM AND WHEELER LOCAL WORKGROUP MEETING

February 18, 2020

# AGENDA

- | <b>Time</b> | <b>Task</b>  |
|-------------|--|
| ▪ 1:00 p.m. | Arrive, get settled and network  |
| ▪ 1:05 p.m. | Welcome/Housekeeping/Introductions – Damon Brosnan, NRCS   |
| ▪ 1:10 p.m. | Introductions of NRCS staff and Partner staff  |
| ▪ 1:15 p.m. | Meeting Objectives and Protocols – Kacee Lathrop, facilitator  |
| ▪ 1:20 p.m. | EQIP Snapshot –2017 – 2019 Damon Brosnan, NRCS <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Brief overview of EQIP in the last 3 years.</li><li>▪ Common practices, funding levels, location maps</li></ul>   |
| ▪ 1:45 p.m. | Group Brainstorm   |
| ▪           | Resource Concerns by Landuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Identify what is being done now,</li><li>▪ What is planned for 2020 &amp; beyond</li><li>▪ Identify/update resource concerns</li></ul>  |
| ▪ 2:20 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Herb Winters</li><li>▪ Chase Schultz and staff</li><li>▪ Debbi Bunch</li><li>▪ Kristin Walz</li><li>▪ Other Partners Present</li></ul> |
| ▪ 3:00 p.m. | Summarize Step 3 of the OWRD process for the Lower John Day Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Damon and Herb</li></ul>   |
| ▪ 3:20 p.m. | Summarize Meeting – Kacee  |
| ▪ 3:30 p.m. | Adjourn Meeting  |



# PAST RESOURCE CONCERNS WHEELER/GILLIAM COUNTY

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JUNIPER  
INVASION



ANNUAL GRASS  
INVASION



IRRIGATION  
EFFICIENCY



FORESTLAND  
HEALTH



INSUFFICIENT  
LIVESTOCK  
WATER



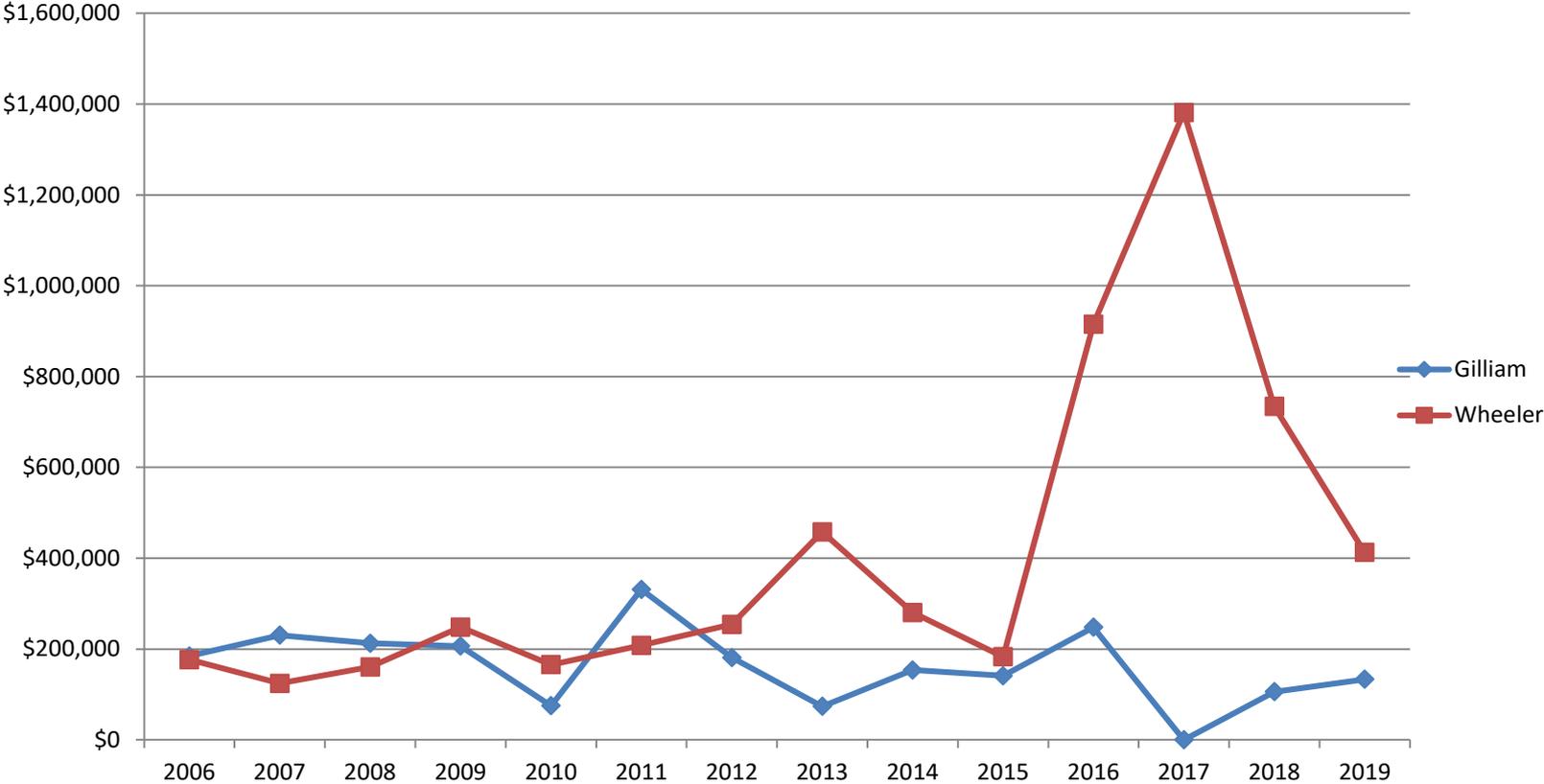
IMPROPER  
PASTURE  
UTILIZATION



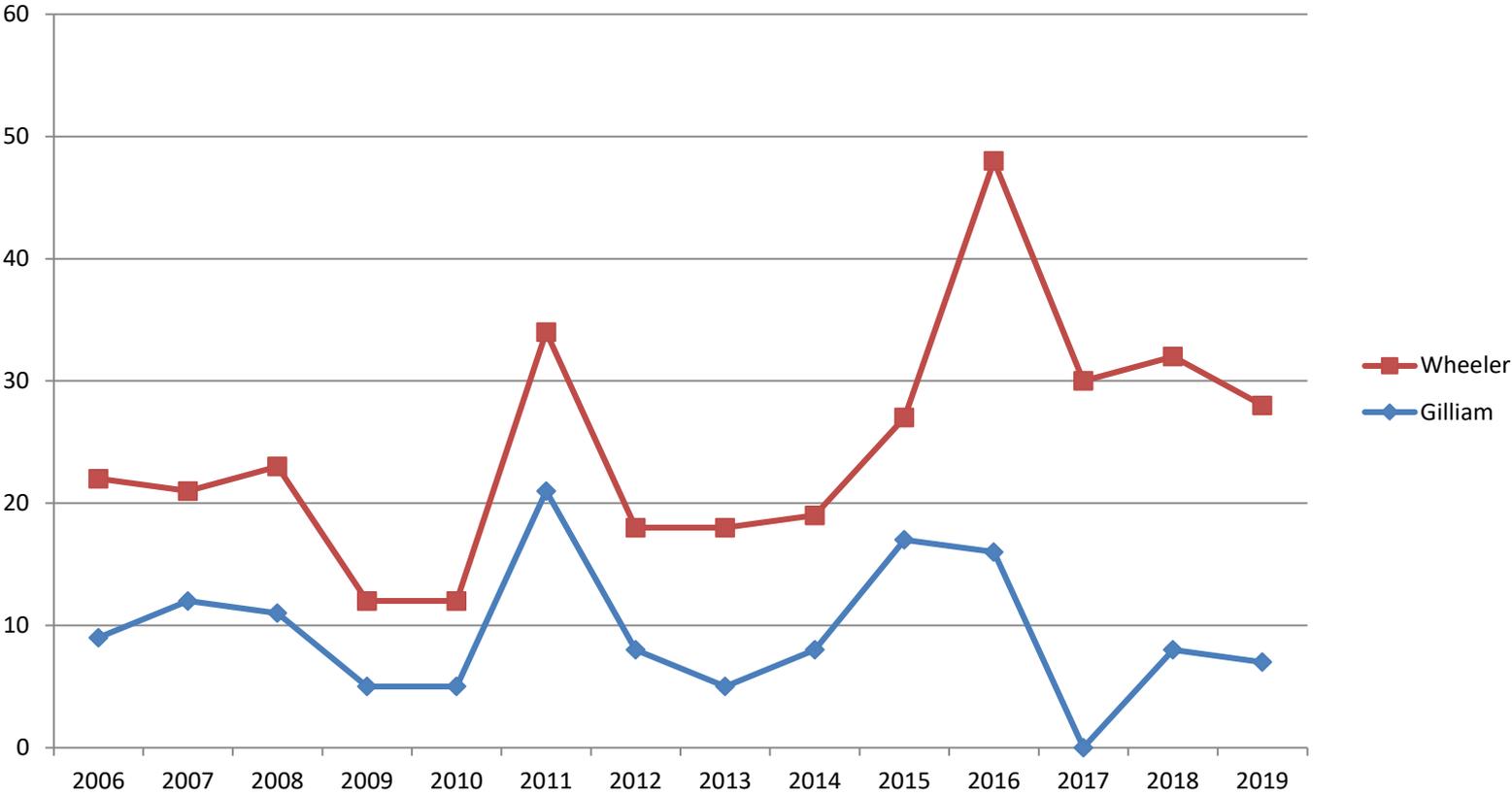
CROPLAND  
EFFICIENCY



# EQIP FUNDING LEVELS GILLIAM AND WHEELER COUNTIES



# # EQIP CONTRACTS AWARDED IN GILLIAM AND WHEELER COUNTIES



# 2019 WHEELER COUNTY EQIP FUNDING POOLS

## Butte Cr Uplands

- 12 Contracts
- Treating resource concerns on rangeland and forest land

## Kahler Uplands is the other funding pool

- 6 contracts
- Treating resource concerns on rangeland and forest land

## North Slope Ochoco Forest Health

- 4 contracts
- Treating resource concerns on forest land



# NORTH SLOPE OCHOCO RCPP

- **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

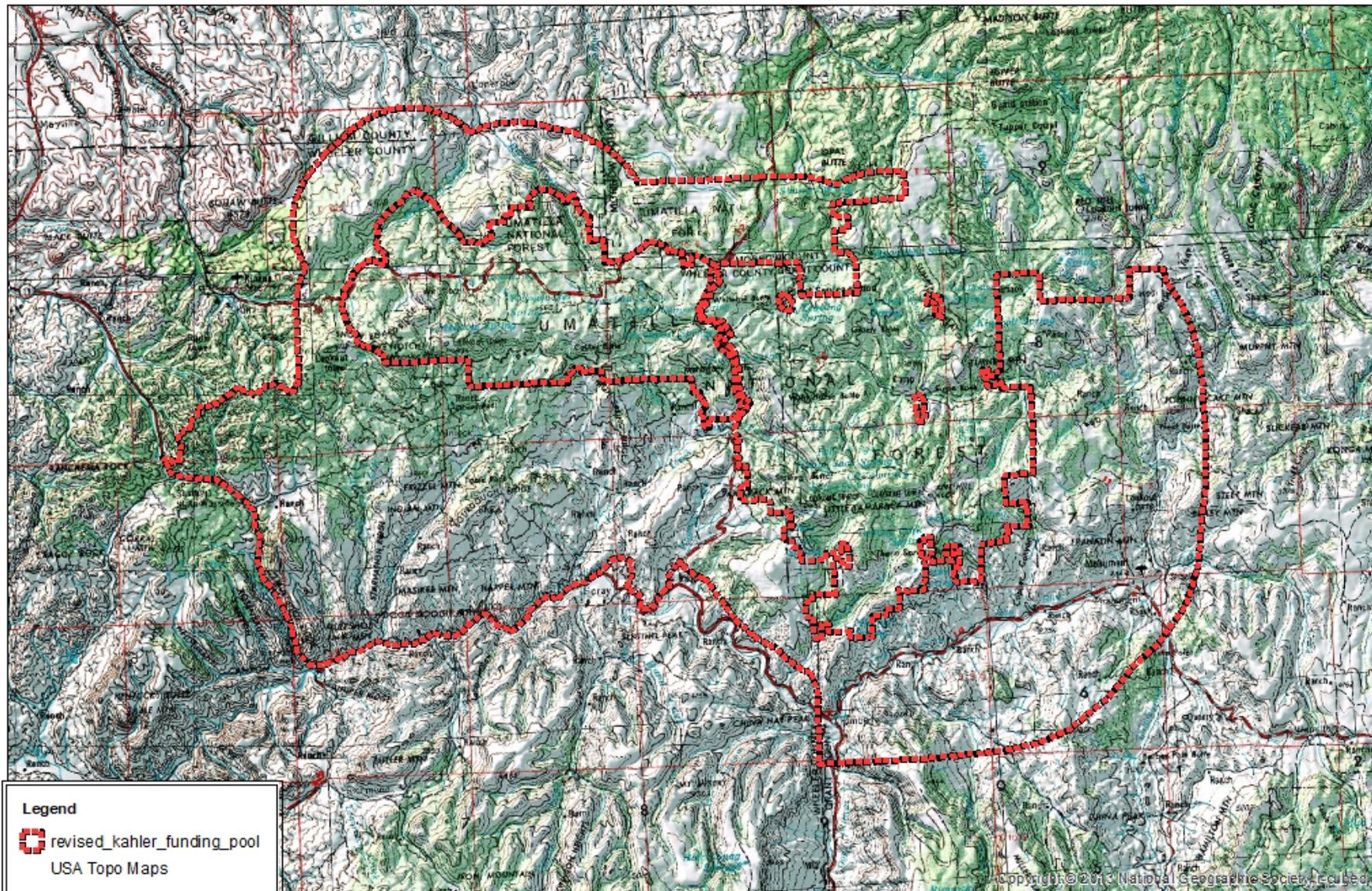
Farm Service Agency



# REVISED KAHLER FUNDING POOL MAP

3-26-2019

Agency: USDA/NRCS



**Legend**  
revised\_kahler\_funding\_pool  
USA Topo Maps

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Prepared with assistance from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service



18,000 0 18,000 36,000 54,000 72,000

Feet



# KAHLER UPLANDS PROJECT MULTI-COUNTY (WHEELER, MORROW, GRANT)

## Funds Requested:

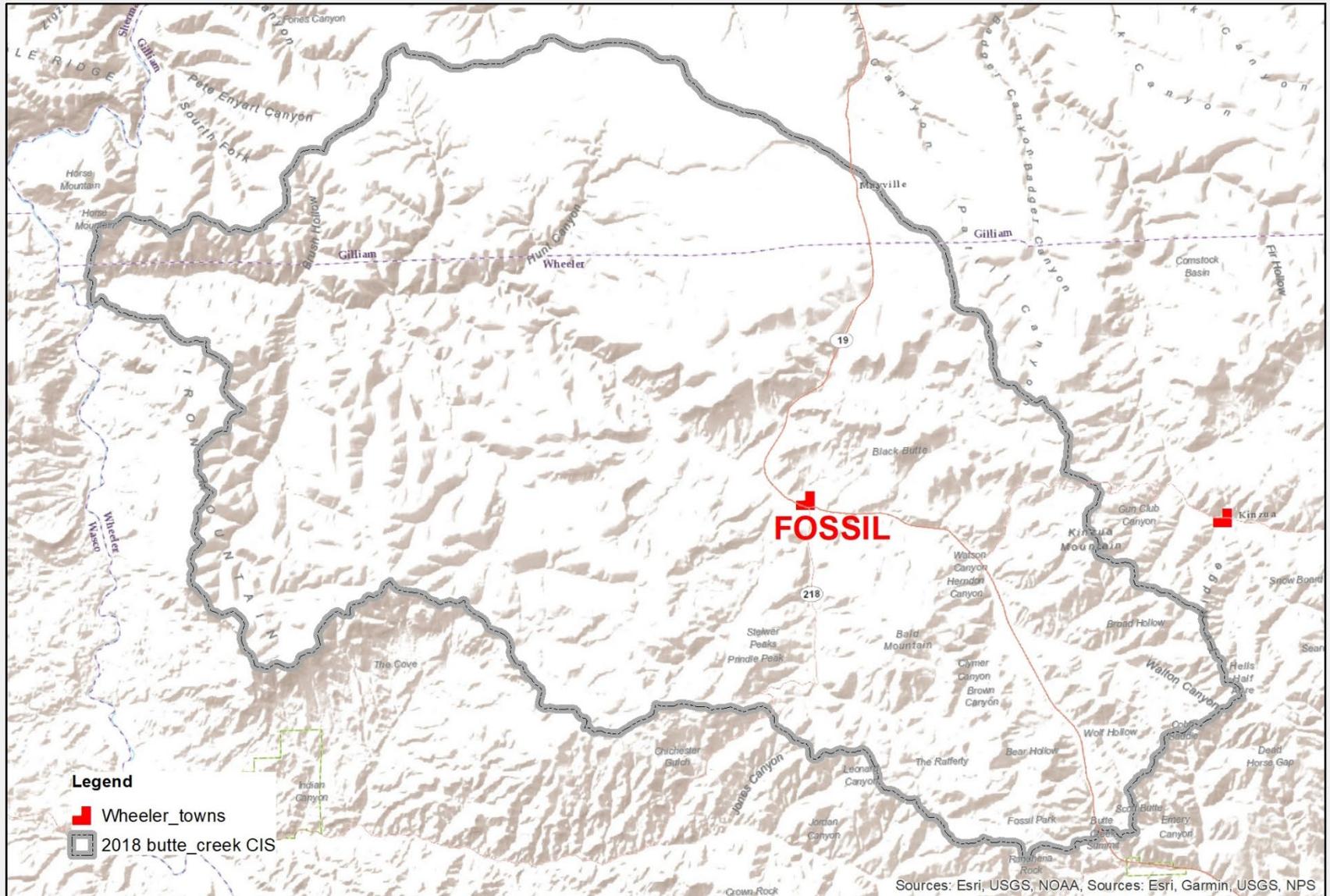
- 2017= \$200,000
- 2018= \$400,000
- 2019= \$400,000
- 2020= \$200,000
- **\* Actual FY funds disbursement may differ due to multiple, external factors and the level of landowner involvement and practice implementation**

## 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



# BUTTE CR CIS



# 2019 BUTTE CREEK UPLANDS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WHEELER AND GILLIAM COUNTIES

First year of funding was 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 include:

- Brush Management (314)- to remove any invasive conifer trees
- Fence (382)- to aid in the effective grazing of expired CRP grass 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

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Prescribed  
burning  
funding pool?

Irrigation  
issues/areas?

Other ideas?



# 2019 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 ON  
EXPIRED CRP?

SOIL HEALTH AND  
COVER CROPS?

BEAVER DAM  
ANALOGS? WHERE?  
WATERSHED?

INTEGRATED PEST  
MANAGEMENT?  
WEEDS (Kacee)

**OTHER RESOURCE  
CONCERNS/AREAS  
OF INTEREST?**

Annual grass  
invasion?

Crop land  
concerns?

CRP takeout?  
(starting in 2017)

Riparian Areas?

Wildlife  
Concerns?  
Habitat?  
Numbers?

Areas of  
opportunity?

# PARTNER EFFORTS

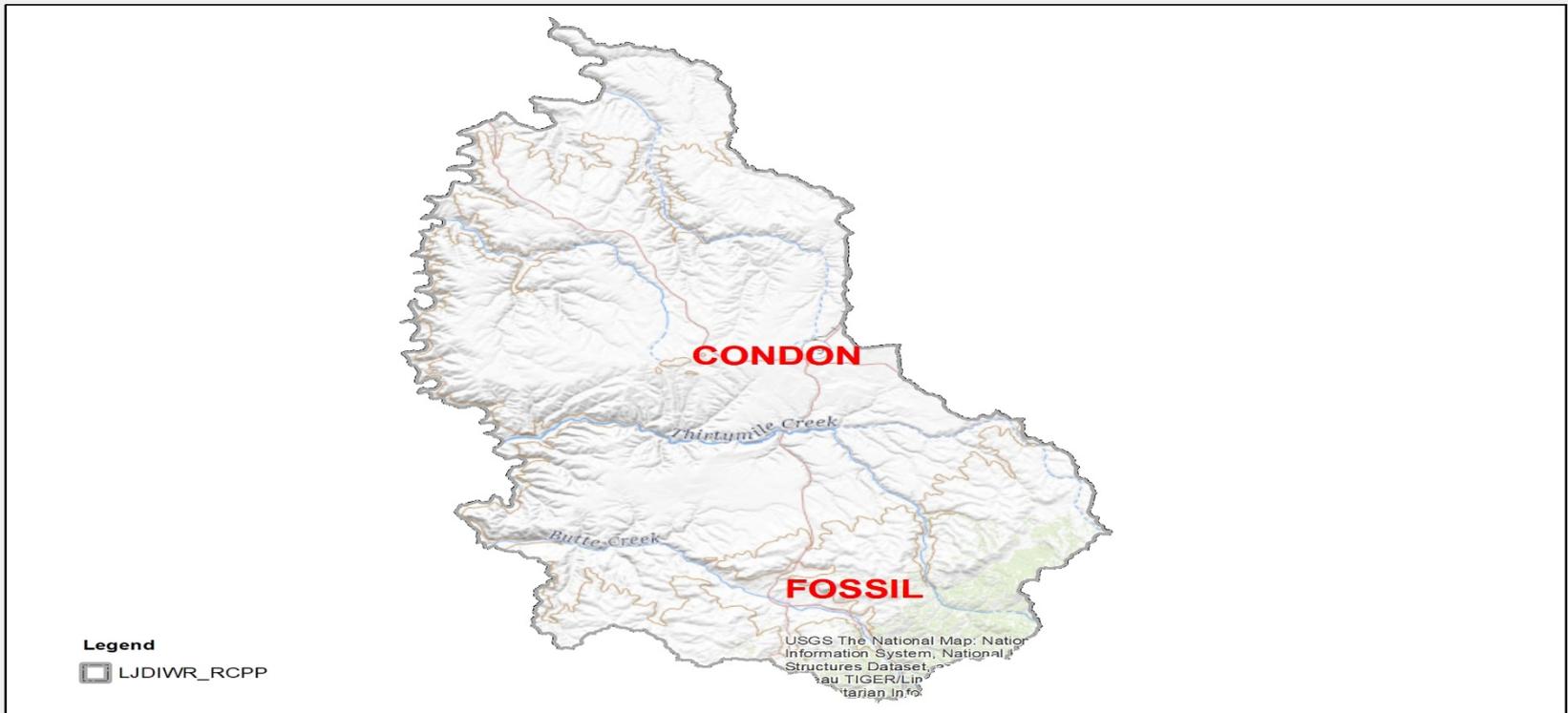
- Lonerock Prescribed Burn
- Kahler Uplands grant through Watershed Council
- BDA's on Bear Creek in RCPP project area
- Bio Char in RCPP project area
- Sustainable Northwest and juniper marketing and milling
- FIP (Focused Investment Project) awarded to John Day Partnership
  - Potentially \$4 million 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



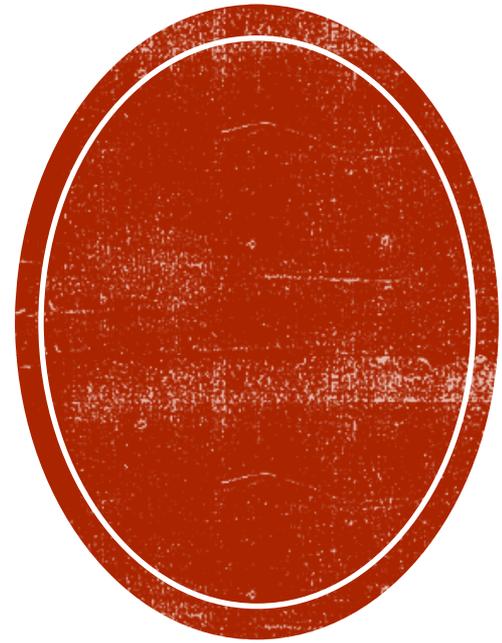
# NEW REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP) PROJECT AREA

## LOWER JOHN DAY RCPP

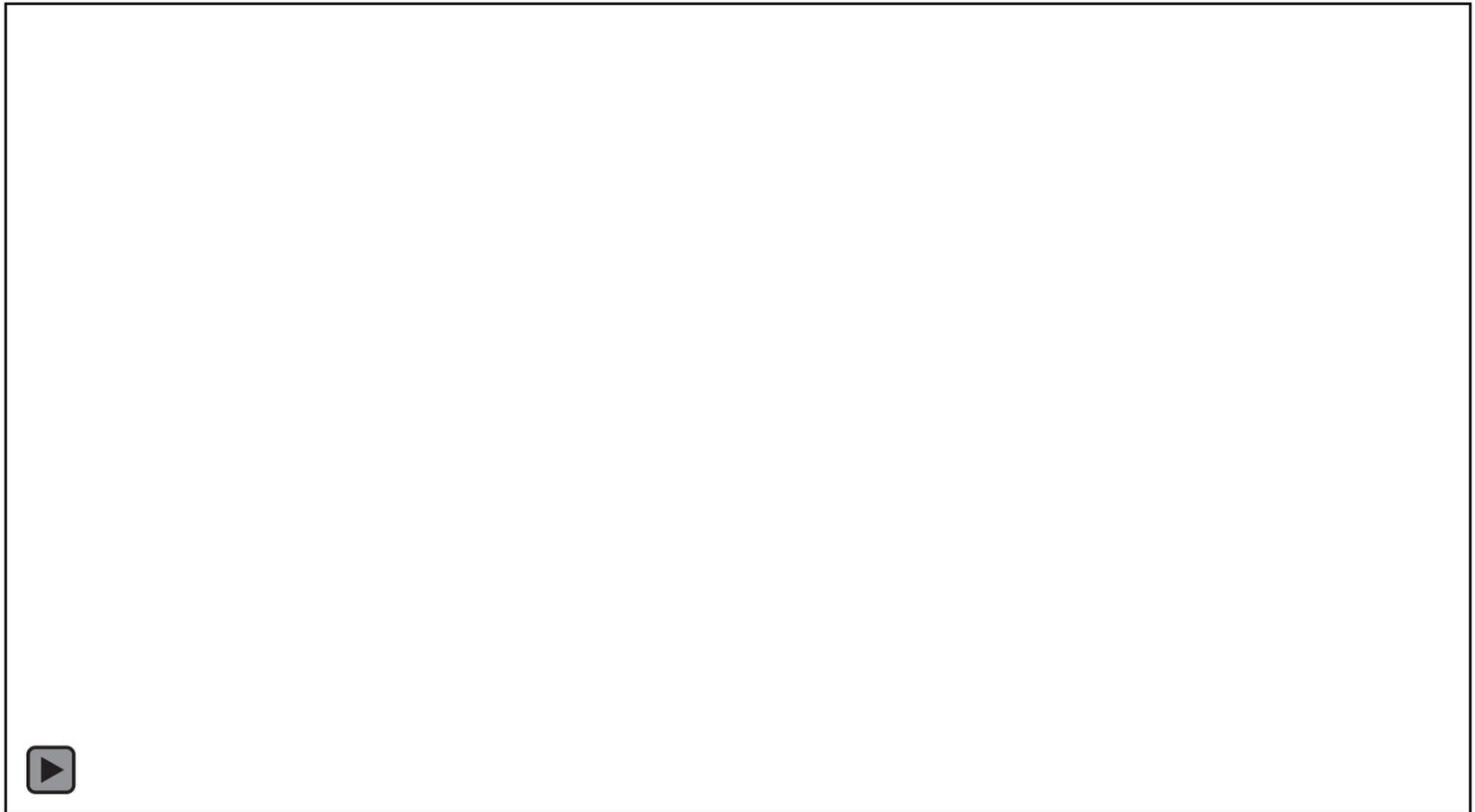
Agency: USDA-NRCS



**LOWER JOHN  
DAY PLACE  
BASED  
PLANNING**



# QUESTIONS / CONCERNS?



## NRCS Gilliam/Wheeler Workgroup meeting

2/19/2020

### -Introductions

Meeting facilitator Kacee Lathrop asked the landowners what they would like to get from this meeting, most of them responded that they would like to know what programs are going on and see what resource concerns will be addressed in upcoming programs.

Resource concerns of past CIS' and programs we have had were presented by Damon Brosnan

-Water resources, Juniper removal, annual grasses on rangeland, Forest health, Irrigation, livestock water, improper pasture utilization.

-Funding levels of past projects, where the money has been allocated and what contracts and CIS' it went to in the last 5 years.

Damon talked about the funding pools we have had in the past and asked landowners what they thought about the areas that have been treated. Those included: Butte Creek, Kahler Basin, Ferry Canyon and the North Slope Ochoco forest health. All 4 of those funding pools will be available again this signup.

Herb Winters led a discussion on the potential upcoming RCPP grant agreement that was ranked #1 in the state, let landowners be aware to look for more upcoming news on the status with that and the NRCS. The RCPP would bring 4 million dollars to extend work on Butte Creek, Ferry Canyon and 30 mile watershed.

Chase Schultz from Wheeler SWCD talked about projects they would like to do and also invited landowners to stop by to talk about things they would like to see and concerns they have. Bodie Brown mentioned the weed program addressing yellow star thistle and knapweed is strong and landowners are encouraged to take part. Brooke Moore talked about CREP and signing up landowners.

Damon and Kacee opened a conversation to the landowners about future ideas from the NRCS for Gilliam and Wheeler Counties. Topics included: Soil health with cover crops, BDA's, Integrated pest management, CRP takeout and what comes next, crop concerns, wildlife concerns, and riparian areas.

Partner efforts were discussed how the NRCS works with Morrow, Gilliam, and Wheeler SWCD's to accomplish projects. Partnership with these agencies are vital for growth of conservation.

Kacee and Damon led an open discussion with the landowners and asked what they would like to see more of for projects, resource concerns addressed, and how they think their previous projects have been going. Focused resource concerns were: annual grasses, Juniper removal, prescribed burning, marketing for juniper, water resource concerns, and pesticide resistant weeds on cropland/range.

End of meeting.