

The Klamath Falls NRCS field office held a local work group meeting on the 27th of February 2020. This meeting went from around 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and was attended by many of the partners we work with, including but not limited to the following: Klamath Watershed Partnership (KWP), Trout Unlimited (TU), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFW), Klamath County SWCD, and a local university extension agent. No members of the public were in attendance. The public announcement for this meeting was posted to the state NRCS website.

This is an outline of the topics discussed at the meeting and subsequent questions, comments, or concerns.

1. Introductions
2. NRCS presentation by Braden Pitcher and Dave Komorowski that highlighted the past and current work of NRCS and funding areas
3. Questions about NRCS presentation
 - SONEC working wetlands
 - Asked by Akimi King, USFW
 - Funding opportunities
 - She knows Ed and was directed towards him for any additional information
 - Satisfied with response
 - Organic initiative
 - Asked by Akimi King, USFW
 - Questioned how this affected organic vs conventional producers
 - We discussed how organic producers may rank higher than others and have offers to other programs / cost-share rates
 - Satisfied with response
4. Comments from partners on outreach events to promote NRCS programs
 - Potato fest
 - Continue to do what partners/NRCS has done in the past near the Chiloquin/Sprague River areas
5. Future Funding Opportunities, as identified by non-NRCS personnel, or how we can adjust current funding to better fit the needs of those seeking assistance. We asked our partners to identify geographic areas where they see the greatest need for improvements (all practices).
 - Merrill / Malin area
 - Irrigators wanting to become more energy and water efficient
 - Also talked about juniper infestation in this area
 - Shift geographical boundary of Gerber CIS
 - Readiness plan or lack thereof may be a setback
 - Discussed how this could be done with a NWQI
 - Likely need a CIS to accomplish water quality/quantity and one for the forestry goals
 - Add a CIS for this area after RCPP has expired?
 - Adding practices to current NWQI (Lost River) / Upper Klamath Lake CIS projects
 - Asked by Bill Lehman, partner on above projects, and director of KWP

- Technologically advanced practices such as anaerobic digestors, tailwater recovery, denitrifying bioreactors, etc.
 - How could we get those added for next year?
 - We discussed how we couldn't add practices for this fiscal year, but could potential add some for the next fiscal year (2021)
 - Also discussed our limitations in implementing practices that aren't currently approved in Oregon
 - Talked about a future NWQI on Lakeshore CIS location
- Satisfied with response
- Sprague River CIS/NWQI and how we could fit our future funding areas to match those of ODA's strategic implementation areas (SIAs).
 - ODA has 1 active and 1 upcoming
 - NRCS currently has one year left on the Sprague River RCPP with 5 million dollars of available funding
 - \$ for outreach and project planning. No money for project implementation from ODA
 - Other partners dollars can be set aside for implementation
- CIS for Juniper removal associated with KLFHP
- 6. Question was asked to partners: How can NRCS improve to better meet our roles as a partner?
 - Continue the open lines of communication
 - KWP
 - Discussed how it can always be better and the need for awareness on funding areas/what NRCS is able to do
 - Change the cost share rate to reflect local contractor rates (specifically towards wells)
 - TU
 - Explained how cost share rates are developed and how they are changed
 - Discussed 75-90% cost share for high priority practices
 - Dave will send list of practices to partners, once the list is received
 - Continue to hold future local work group meetings (like this one)
 - KWP
- 7. Miscellaneous
 - Question regard land acquisition and easements
 - Asked by Akimi King, USFW
 - Answered by Allen Moody, wetland specialist
 - Satisfied with response
 - Overall, group seemed satisfied with NRCS's participation, communication, and explanation of the work we've been doing. Most in attendance welcomed the idea of future annual meetings like this.

02/27/2020

Klamath Falls NRCS Local Work Group Planning Meeting

1.5 hours