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Local Workgroup Meeting – Linn & Benton Counties			
January 22, 2020		1:00p - 3:00p	Linn County OSU Extension
Meeting Leader	Amy Kaiser, District Conservationist		
Meeting Purpose	To build alliances, strategically invest, and effectively solve natural resource challenges		
Facilitator	Kathy Ferge, Outreach Coordinator		
Note Taker & Timekeeper	Lexi Gardner, Soil Conservationist		
Attendees	Local Landowners & Local Partners: Benton SWCD, Linn SWCD, ODF, ODA, NRCS, GBLT, OSWA, SSWC, MRWC, BCSWA, Linn Farm Bureau, SilvaSaunterraLLC		
Agenda Topic 1			
Item	Hazelnut Irrigation Improvement CIS		
Discussion	Following the hazelnut CIS presentation, participants did not share suggestions to change or add items to this strategy.		
Outcomes	The consensus, from the participants, is to keep this strategy for another year (FY2021) to assist hazelnut growers. It was suggested from one participant, to figure out a better way to reach out to farmers about this program opportunity.		
Future Action		Person Responsible	Deadline
Participant applications and interest were low in FY2019. Setting up NRCS outreach booths at local events, including Nut Growers Society, may gain interest.		District Conservationist	Jan 2021
Working with the local Plant Materials Center for educational workshops about cover crop.		District Conservationist	Jan 2021
Agenda Topic 2			
Item	Forest Resistance and Resilience CIS		
Discussion	<p>Following the forest CIS presentation, participants asked if NRCS could increase the cost share rate for some of the practices that involve slash removal, chipping and hauling.</p> <p>Also, participants are concerned with bark beetle infestation, especially when the tree is cut and then piled. There is limited time to mitigate effective processes. ODF has a recommended timeframe factoring in pheromones from the plants and insects.</p>		
Outcomes	The consensus, from the participants, is to keep this strategy for another year (FY2021) to assist non-industrial private forest landowners with forest resilience and resistance in woodlands.		

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Future Action	Person Responsible	Deadline
Recommendations about cost share rates for woodland practices will be sent to state office.	District Conservationist	Jan 2021
Agenda Topic 3		
Item	Oak Prairie Restoration CIS	
Discussion	Following the oak CIS presentation, participants asked if NRCS could utilize the prescribed burning practice to maintain oak prairie habitat. Many factors are associated with burning, including liability concerns.	
Outcomes	The consensus, from the participants, is to keep this strategy for another year (FY2021) to assist with wildlife habitat improvements in oak prairies. Technical and financial assistance for the prescribed burning practice is available.	
Future Action	Person Responsible	Deadline
There are many factors and concerns related to prescribed burning. A meeting with partners USFWS and ODF should take place this coming year to discuss options and alternatives for prescribed burning and its beneficial effects.	District Conservationist	Jan 2021
Agenda Topic 4		
Item	SWCD ODA Water Quality CIS	
Discussion	This strategy is led by SWCD and ODA to focus on water quality within priority watershed HUCs. Following the water quality CIS presentation, participants did not share suggestions to change or update items to this strategy.	
Outcomes	The consensus, from the participants, is to keep this strategy for another year (FY2021) to assist with water quality efforts in the Willamette basin.	
Future Action	Person Responsible	Deadline
NRCS will work with SWCD to determine priority areas and objectives for future planning.	District Conservationist	Jan 2021
Agenda Topic 5		
Item	Addressing Other Local Concerns	
Concern 1	SOIL	
Objective & Conclusion	NO-TILL – Farmers are looking for financial assistance to address runoff from their crop fields. New technology such as custom land forming may improve soil health. However, no-till implementation along with GPS systems is a high cost to farmers. Further research and	

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	local demonstrations could be a useful tool to explore more opportunities.
<b>Concern 2</b>	<b>ANIMAL</b>
Objective & Conclusion	PEST MANAGEMENT - Nutria has been affecting water ways and creating runoff. At this time, this is not able to be addressed as a stand-alone conservation practice. Further research is needed, possibly improving riparian habitat and ditches to deter rodents.
Objective & Conclusion	PEST MANAGEMENT - Fungus and insect infestations in wood products. Further discussion with ODF and OSU Extension Forester is needed to address best management practices and timing.
Objective & Conclusion	WILDLIFE HABIAT - Encourage beaver habitat. BDA beaver dam analogs have a benefit to increase water retention, decrease sediment transport, and decrease runoff. Further discussion is necessary to create a new strategy related to wildlife habitat improvement. However, all the NRCS strategies and programs use the NEPA process to alleviate negative impact to wildlife and other natural resources.
<b>Concern 3</b>	<b>HUMAN</b>
Objective & Conclusion	NRCS doesn't have control over taxes and land deferrals, but this has come up on numerous occasions related to forest land.
Objective & Conclusion	ACCESS ROADS - NRCS offers conservation practices for forestland, including access roads related to ingress/egress and improving fire breaks. Costs for re-surfacing or culvert repairs is not available through NRCS as a stand-alone conservation practice, because this does not address a resource concern.
<b>Concern 4</b>	<b>PLANT</b>
Objective & Conclusion	WOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT - Carbon sequestration for soil health. Need more practices that allow for cost share in keeping wood waste on-site. Further discussion is needed to include new conservation techniques such as bio-char.
Objective & Conclusion	SLASH PILES - Finding a source that will take slash and wood material. One option may include in-stream fish habitat. Another option, bio dens. Further research is being administered by a local landowner to determine benefits and maintenance of bio dens.
Objective & Conclusion	WEED MANAGEMENT - Tansy is becoming resistant to agricultural management practices. Weeds, nonnative and invasive, are a constant issue everywhere. Each CIS includes conservation practices for brush management and herbaceous weed treatment. Further discussion is needed to address weeds in pasture and cropland.
<b>Concern 5</b>	<b>WATER QUALITY &amp; QUANTITY</b>
Objective & Conclusion	WATER STORAGE - Water retention to stop washing out bank revetments and decrease water runoff.

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Objective & Conclusion	WATER STORAGE – Creating ponds for fire and livestock. This practice is available in the Oak Restoration CIS as a stock water system for addressing prescribed grazing resource concerns.
<b>Local Workgroup Meeting Adjourned</b>	
<b>Contacts</b>	
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**Upcoming FY2020 Program Deadlines:**

CSP Renewals - March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

EQIP – April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Save the Date:**

Local Workgroup Meeting – January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021