



2021 NRCS GILLIAM AND WHEELER LOCAL WORKGROUP MEETING

February 10, 2021

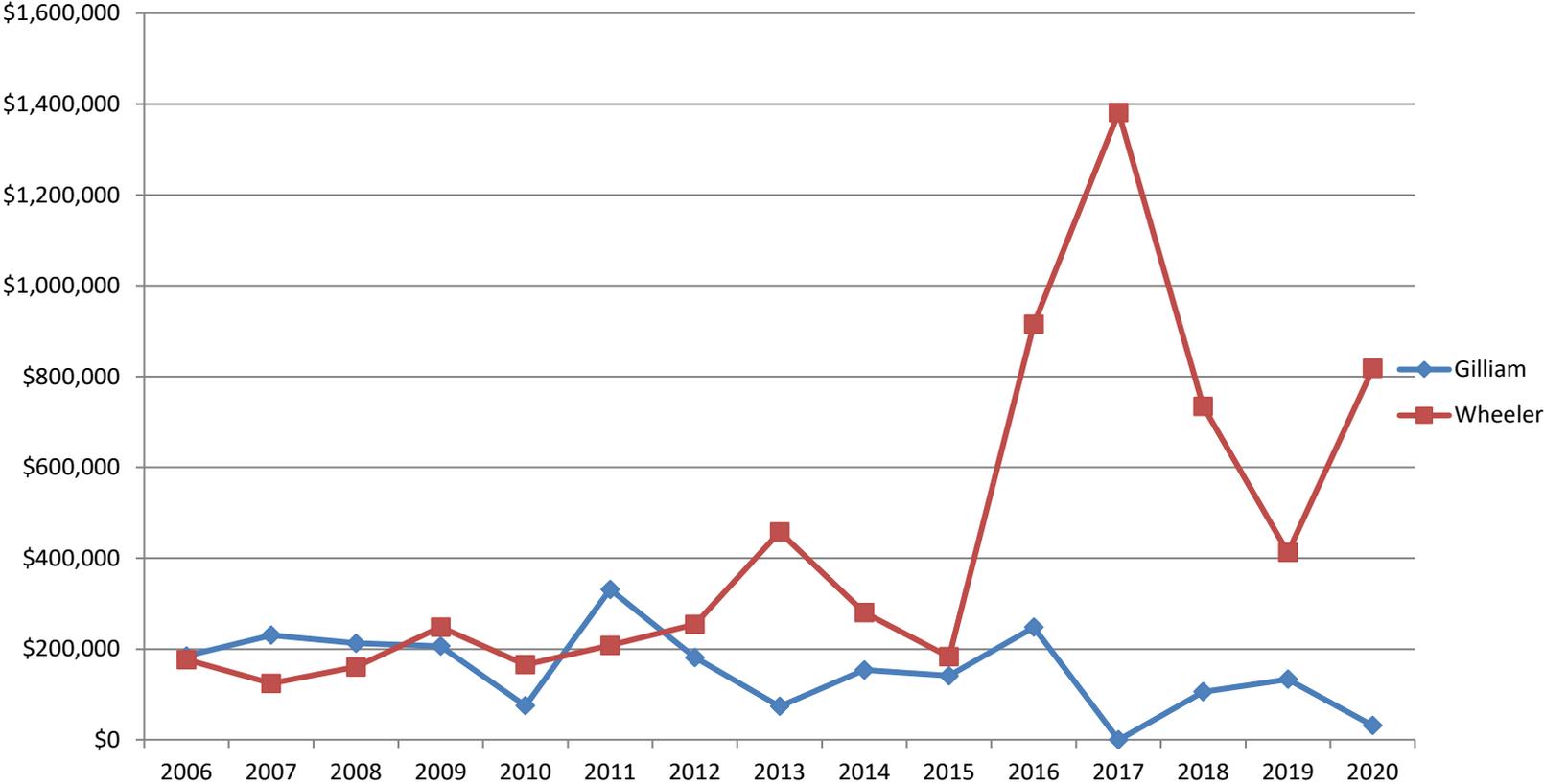


AGENDA

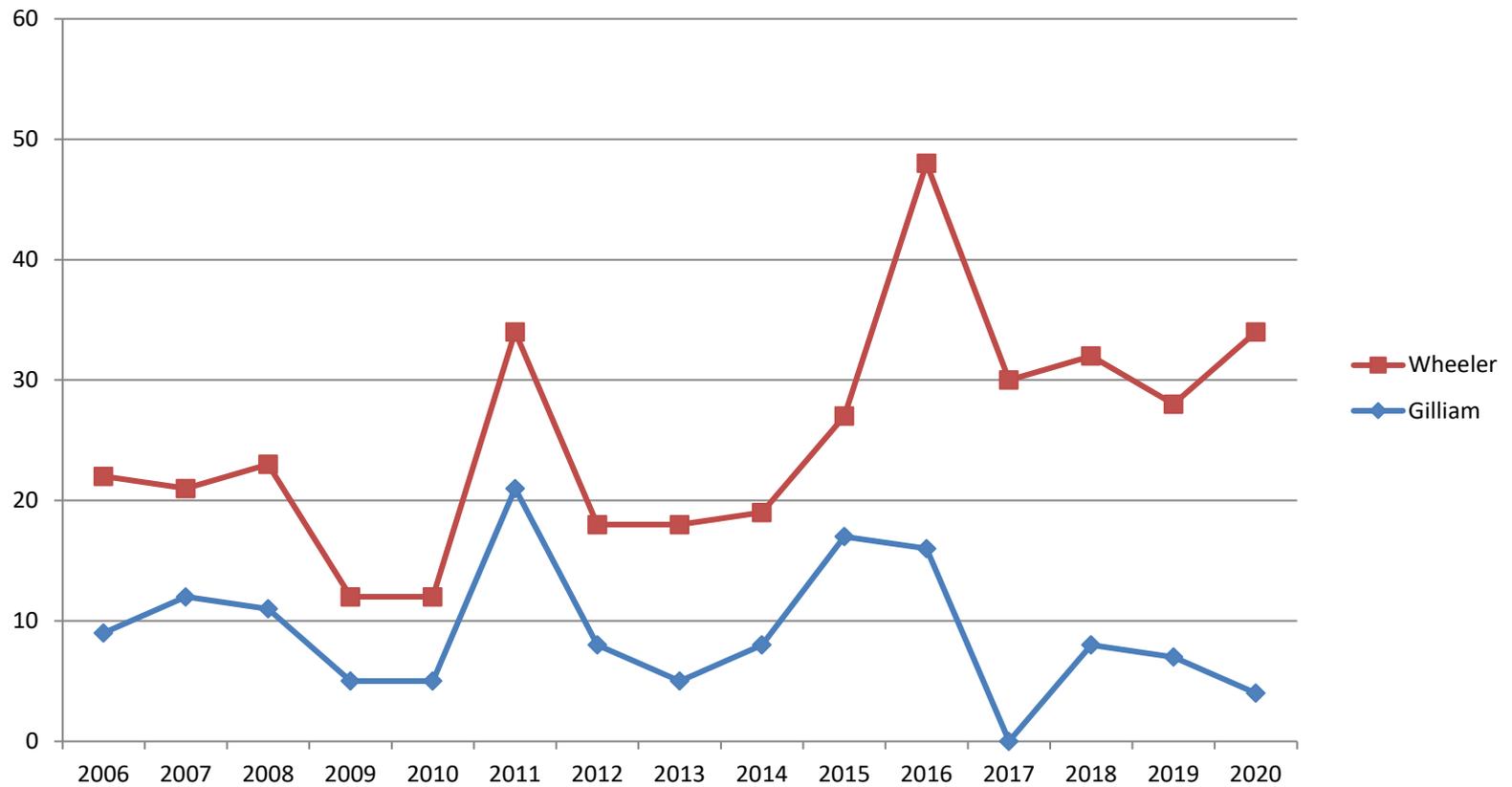
- 1:00 p.m. Arrive and get settled
- 1:05 p.m. Welcome/Housekeeping/Introductions/Meeting Objectives – Damon Brosnan, NRCS
- 1:10 p.m. Roll Call of attendees
- 1:15 p.m. EQIP Snapshot –2018 – 2020 - Damon
 - Brief overview of EQIP in the last 3 years.
 - Common practices, funding levels, location maps
- 1:30 p.m. Group Brainstorm – Damon
- Resource Concerns by Landuse
 - Identify what is being done now,
 - What is planned for 2021 & beyond
 - Identify/update resource concerns
 - Crop
 - Range
 - Forestry
 - CRP?
- 2:00 p.m. Discuss Geographic Priorities/Focus Areas and Discuss Future Opportunities – Damon
- 2:15 p.m. Discuss Recently awarded RCPP project – Herb Winters
- 2:30 p.m. Partners discuss priorities, projects and the benefits of working with multiple conservation partners
 - Herb Winters, Gilliam SWCD Manager
 - Chase Schultz, Wheeler SWCD Manager
 - Other Partners Present
- 2:50 p.m. Summarize Meeting – Damon
- 3:00 p.m. Adjourn Meeting



EQIP FUNDING LEVELS GILLIAM AND WHEELER COUNTIES



EQIP CONTRACTS AWARDED IN GILLIAM AND WHEELER COUNTIES



2020 WHEELER COUNTY EQIP FUNDING POOLS

Butte Cr Uplands

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

Kahler Uplands is the other funding pool

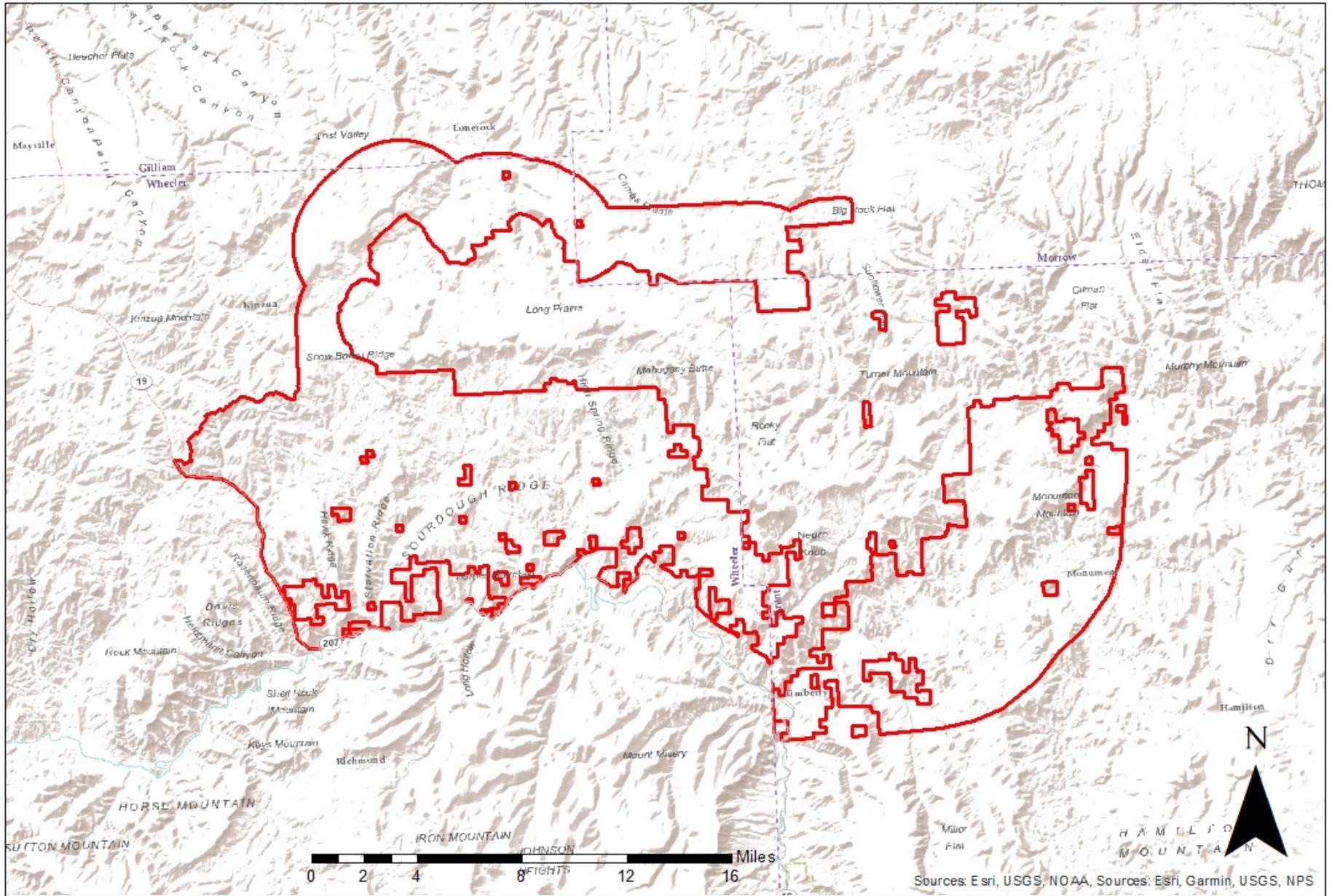
- 16 contracts
- Treating resource concerns on rangeland and forest land

North Slope Ochoco Forest Health

- 4 contracts
- Treating resource concerns on forest land



KAHLER FUNDING POOL MAP



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

Funds Requested:

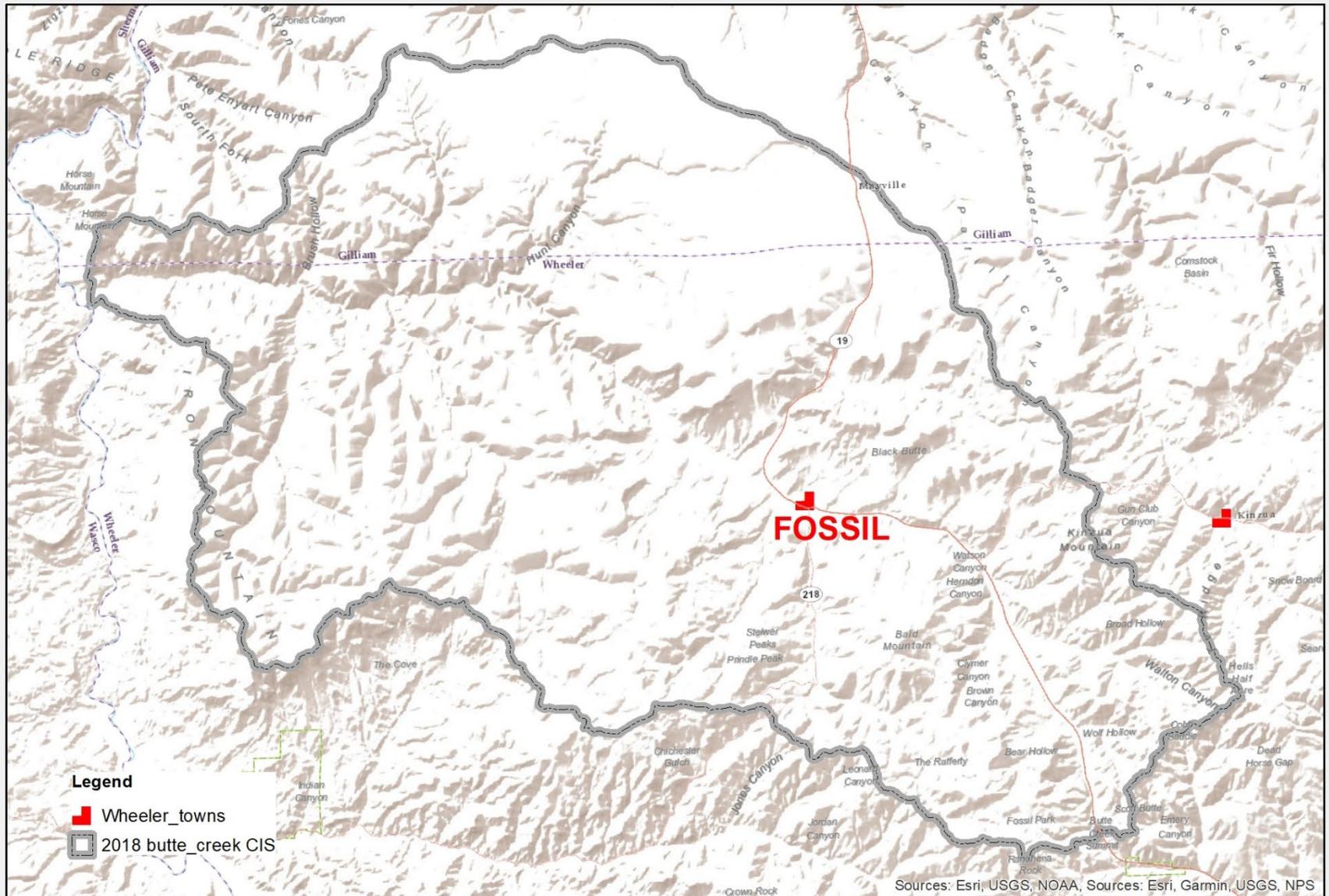
- 2017= \$200,000
- 2018= \$400,000
- 2019= \$400,000
- 2020= \$200,000
- *** Actual FY funds disbursement may differ due to multiple, external factors and the level of landowner involvement and practice implementation**

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



Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA, Sources: Esri, Garmin, USGS, NPS

Prepared with assistance from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service



0 400 800 1200 1600 2000 2400 2800 3200 3600



2020 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 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

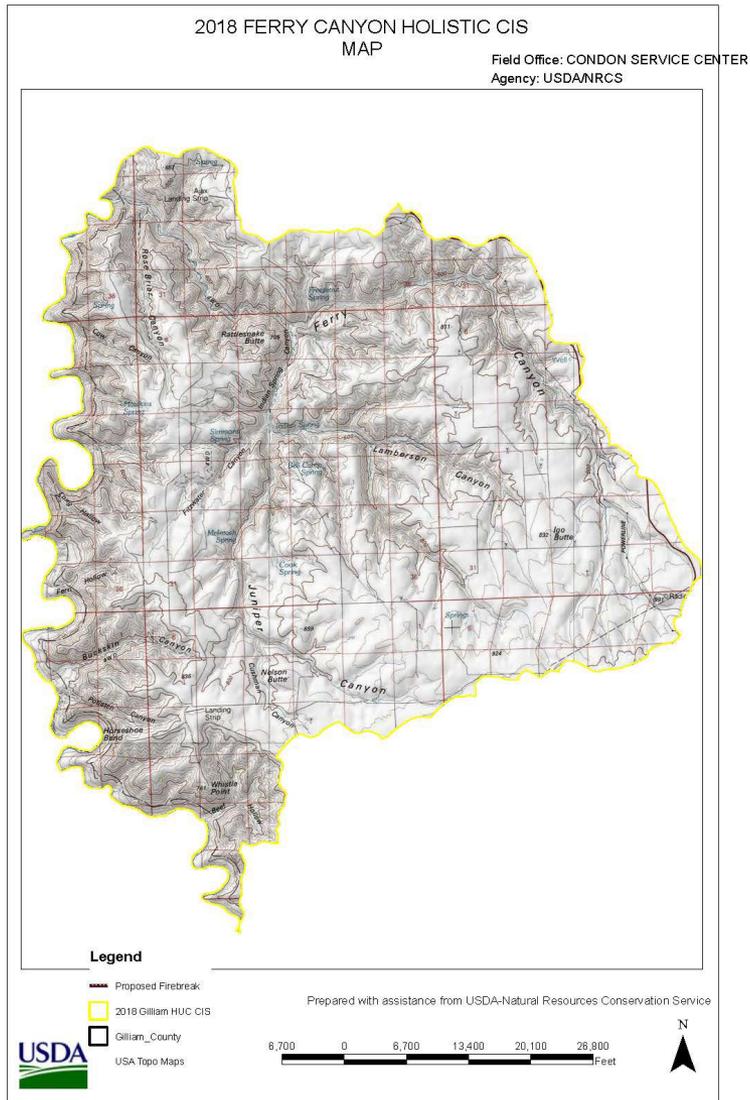
Prescribed
burning
funding pool?

Irrigation
issues/areas?

Other ideas?

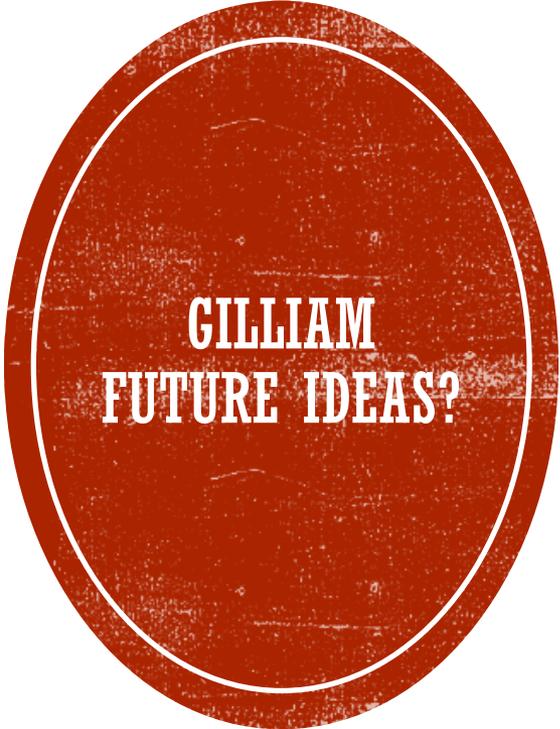


FERRY CANYON IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY



- **Ferry Canyon Conservation Implementation Strategy**
 - \$107,000 Requested for funding in 2018
 - \$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?**

**GRASS BANK
IDEA/PRESCRIBED
GRAZING ON
EXPIRED CRP?**

**SOIL HEALTH AND
COVER CROPS?**

**INTEGRATED PEST
MANAGEMENT?
WEEDS**

**WOVEN WIRE
REMOVAL FOR
WILDLIFE
PASSAGE?**

PAST RESOURCE CONCERNS WHEELER/GILLIAM COUNTY



JUNIPER
INVASION



ANNUAL GRASS
INVASION



IRRIGATION
EFFICIENCY



FORESTLAND
HEALTH



INSUFFICIENT
LIVESTOCK
WATER



IMPROPER
PASTURE
UTILIZATION



CROPLAND
EFFICIENCY



**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?

Underserved
Areas of the
Counties?

PARTNERS

“WHAT’S NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART IS COOPERATIVE
CONSERVATION”

- Gale Norton

United States Secretary of the Interior, 2001-2006



- **Landowners**
- Gilliam SWCD
- Wheeler SWCD
- Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council
- Gilliam East John Day Watershed Council
- Farm Service Agency
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Blue Mountain Land Trust
- National Park Service
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

PARTNERS



PARTNER EFFORTS

- In the last five years, approximately \$39,000,000 obligated and paid in Conservation payments to landowners in the two counties via NRCS, FSA, Wheeler SWCD and Gilliam SWCD
- Conservation Innovation Grant awarded
- Work with BLM on Thirtymile
- Beaver Dam Analogues (BDA's) in the Thirtymile watershed
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant awarded
- 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



FINIS

- QUESTIONS?
- QUESTIONS FOR PARTNERS?
- ISSUES NOT MENTIONED?

- PLEASE REMEMBER THE DOOR/PHONE/EMAIL ARE ALWAYS OPEN AND WE ENCOURAGE YOUR INPUT ALL YEAR

Thank you for taking time to participate in today's session!

NRCS—Helping people help the land.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.





Gilliam and Wheeler Counties NRCS Local Work Group Strategic Planning Meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 10th, 2021

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Damon Brosnan	Herb Winters	Jessica Jones	Kristina Moore
Roger Lathrop	Norie Wright	Geoffrey Campbell	Jordan
Lisa Green	Rita	Brooke Moore	Times-Journal
Kacee Lathrop	Austin Reimer	Elizabeth	Jim Bob Collins
Ben Logan	Amy Charette	Debbi	Jere
Paul Chamness	Loyd Smith/Marybeth	Matthew Brown	Chase Shults
Nicole Lexson	Cassi Newton	Steph Charette	DelRae Ferguson
Bodie	Sandy Vanier	Unidentified call-in	

Purpose: Bring together individuals with a variety of expertise and knowledge allowing the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and our partners to better focus our efforts for program year 2022 and beyond.

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Areas of Interest/Questions:

- Extending funding pool areas (ex: Kahler Basin) past 2022 if landowners are continuing to sign up and utilize the available funding.
- Extending the North Slope Ochoco CIS boundary further north in order to encompass a larger area. There is need for pre-commercial treatments in the area but it falls outside the boundary.
- Is there any chance that wells can be funded in 2022 in response to persistent drought conditions in the area?
- Getting funding for smaller areas with fewer landowners (ex: Service Creek, Waterman Flat), and basing some funding pools on geographic areas instead of basing them on large watersheds.
- In 2022, put more focus on planting deep rooted perennial grasses and utilizing prescribed burning as a tool.
- Strong interest by multiple landowners in woven wire removal.
- Current fire danger in forested areas that are not within the funding areas, but high cost of treatments makes approaching the landowner challenging.
- Shoefly and Girds creek as potential areas of opportunity to do some work.

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Jones