



United States Department of Agriculture



Rangeland Listening Session
Call in number: 1-669-254-5252
Meeting Room # 160 099 7101



Grant County Local Work Group Meeting - 2021

Aaron Roth – District Conservationist | February 2021

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Meeting Agenda

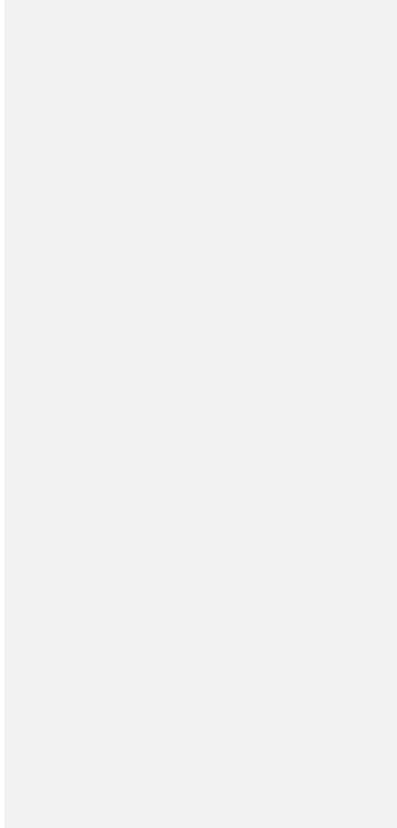


- **Welcome and Local Work Group Listening Session Overview**
 - Name, organization or affiliate, email, and phone number
- **NRCS Staff**
- **New FSA County Executive Director**
- **Review of County Priority Resource Concerns**
- **2021 County Funding Opportunities**
 - Partners
 - Current CIS's
 - Future work?
- **Input/Comments/New project ideas or areas**



Local Work Group Meeting Purpose

- Review performance of the past year projects.
- Help shape plans and prioritize future project.
- Connect with partners and new audience members to seek opportunities to leverage partnership funds.
- Learn about other NRCS programs which may provide opportunities or beneficial to you.
- Check in, how are we doing, what can we do better.
- Are there emerging technologies/science that we need to look at?
- Gather input from producers and partners.



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



Oregon Local Work Group Meetings

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Oregon
 United States Department of Agriculture

Topics Programs Newsroom Contact Us

About Us | National Centers | State Websites

Browse By Audience | A-Z Index | Help

You are Here: Home / People / Partners / Current Local Work Group Meeting Schedule

Stay Connected     

People

- Partners
- Teachers and Students
- Volunteers
- NRCS Employees

Current Local Work Group Meeting Schedule

Fiscal Year 2021 Local Work Group Schedule

Local Work Group Meetings are a valuable part of the NRCS planning process, providing an opportunity for local land managers to be part of a collaborative effort to improve natural resources within their county.

Participants help:

- identify where the best investments can be made to address natural resource problems,
- share the work that has already been done in the county, and
- share their vision for what the county will look like when these natural resource concerns have been addressed.

Based on feedback from those meetings, NRCS updates the county Long Range Plan and develops new *Conservation Implementation Strategies* to address identified resource concerns. You may contact us anytime to express concerns or comments about conservation needs in the county, and we encourage you to attend the next Local Work Group meeting in your county.

[View Interactive Story Map about Oregon's Local Work Groups](#)

Past Year Local Work Group Information: [2020](#) | [2019](#) | [2018](#) | [2017](#) | [2016](#) | [2015](#) | [2014](#) | [2013](#)

North Coast Basin			
Date & Time	Meeting Name, Agenda & Notes	Location	Contact
TBA	Columbia County Local Work Group Meeting	USDA Service Center, 35285 Millard Road St. Helens, OR 97051	Don Mehlhoff District Conservationist 503-438-3146
TBA	Tillamook County	Port of Tillamook	Mitch

John Day / Umatilla Basin			
Date & Time	Meeting Name, Agenda & Notes	Location	Contact
County Overview to be recorded.	Grant County Local Work Group Meeting Agenda Includes information on how to work in a Zoom meeting.	Crop/Pasture: Tues. Feb. 16, 1 to 2 p.m. Zoom Meeting Link: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605965982 Listening Schedules via Zoom. See Location for Zoom links. Range: Wed. Feb. 17, 1 to 2 p.m. Zoom Meeting Link: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600997101 Forest: Thurs. Feb. 18, 1 to 2 p.m. Zoom Meeting Link: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608339836	Aaron Roth District Conservationist 541-575-1274 Ext 113
Crop/Pasture: Tues. Feb. 16, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.		Meeting ID: 160 596 5982 One tap mobile +16692545252,,1605965982# US (San Jose)	
Range: Wed. Feb. 17, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.		Meeting ID: 160 099 7101 One tap mobile +16692545252,,1600997101# US (San Jose)	
Forestry: Thurs. Feb 18, 1 to 2 p.m.		Meeting ID: 160 833 9836 One tap mobile +16692545252,,1608339836# US (San Jose)	
Wed, Feb., 10, 2021 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.	Wheeler and Gilliam Counties Local Work Group Meeting	Join ZoomGov Meeting https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1616520722?pwd=UzRwcTASyXRIUGdWM29sT2Qxdnh3QT09	Damon Brosnan District Conservationist 541-384-2671 Ext 107
		Meeting ID: 161 652 0722 Passcode: 585622 One tap mobile +16692545252,,1616520722# US (San Jose) +16468287666,,1616520722# US (New York)	

Natural Resources Conservation Service



John Day Field Office Staff

Aaron Roth - District Conservationist

541-575-0135 ext. 113 aaron.roth@usda.gov

Hannah Mears – Soil Conservationist

541-575-0135 ext. 104 hannah.mears@usda.gov

Stephanie Moothart – Soil Conservationist

541-574-0135 ext. 114 stephanie.moothart@usda.gov

Tereasa Perkins – Soil Conservationist Technician

541-575-0135 ext. 106 teresa.perkins@usda.gov

Mathew Brown – ODF – Field Forester

541-575-1139 matthew.t.brown@oregon.gov

Austin Reimer – ODF - AFF Forester

541-575-1139 austin.b.reimer@oregon.gov

Vacant – GSWCD - CREP Technician

Vacant – NRCS – Soil Conservationist

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Farm Service Agency Updates

Harney-Grant County combination – effective January 1, 2021

Livestock Forage Program (LFP)

- For forage losses from 2020, Harney & Grant counties qualified for a 4-month payment. Payment is based off your livestock numbers and the pasture you graze (federal, state, or private)
- We are working on these applications in date order and will be in contact once we reach your application

Acreage Reports

- Deadline for NAP Insurance producers is April 15th
- Deadline for spring planting and non-NAP Insurance producers is July 15th

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands

- Bid-in process, able to hay or graze acreage per your Conservation Plan built with NRCS
- Rate for Grant County = \$5 per acre

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP-3)

- We will notify producers as soon as guidance is released about this potential program

Hiring

- A Program Technician position located in the John Day office, closed on January 28th and we are working through the hiring process

Harney County Executive Director – Emma Gabriel

emma.gabriel@usda.gov (541) 573-6446



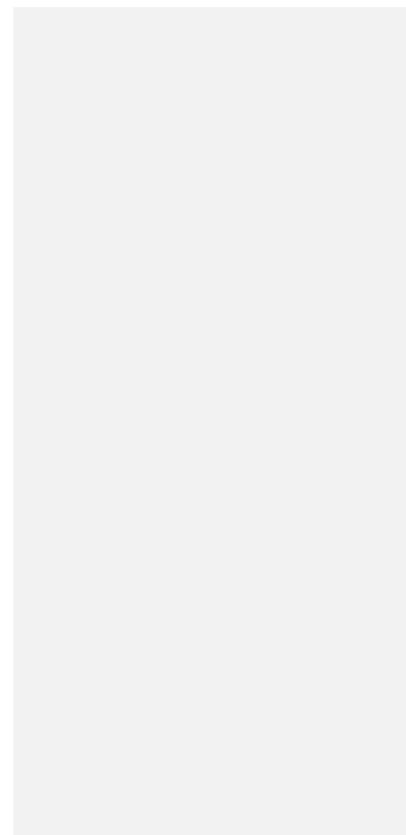
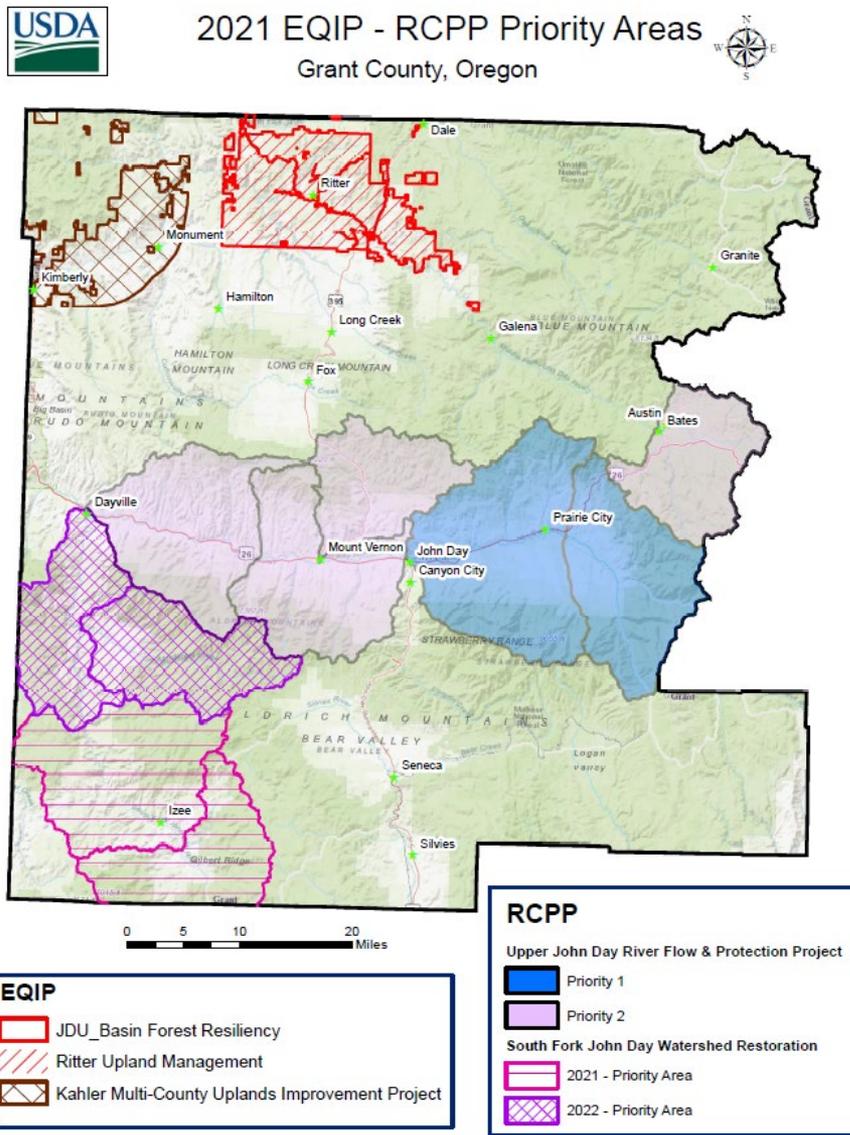
Local Work Group Priorities

County Priority Resource Concerns

1. Invasive Species (including juniper, annual grasses & herbaceous weeds) sweet briar rose?
2. Forest Health (including aspen restoration)
3. Grazing Management (including stock water developments and cross-fencing for private lands)
4. Water Quality/Quantity (including irrigation efficiency improvements, stock water)
5. Easements (to keep working lands in ag production and mitigate threat of subdivision)



2021 Grant County Funding Priority Map



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



2021 Grant County Funding Opportunities

➤ Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- South Fork John Day Watershed Restoration (SFJDWC RCPP)
- Upper John Day Flow Restoration and Protection (CTWSRO RCPP)

➤ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- JDU Basin Forest Resiliency
- Ritter Uplands Management
- Kahler Multi-County Uplands Improvement Project
- Statewide Initiatives
 - Seasonal High Tunnels
 - Energy
 - Organic/Transition to Organic
- Deadline for Applications is April 16th 2021

➤ Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Deadlines for Applications is March 26th 2021



Grant County Listening Session

Cropland/Pastureland

Tuesday February 16th from 1 – 2 pm

Rangeland

Wednesday February 17th from 1 – 2 pm

Forestland

Thursday February 18th from 1 – 2 pm

Aaron Roth - District Conservationist

541-575-0135 ext. 113 aaron.roth@usda.gov

Hannah Mears – Soil Conservationist

541-575-0135 ext. 104 hannah.mears@usda.gov

Stephanie Moothart – Soil Conservationist

541-574-0135 ext. 114 stephanie.moothart@usda.gov

Tereasa Perkins – Soil Conservationist Technician

541-575-0135 ext. 106 tereasa.perkins@usda.gov



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at **How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint** and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Local Work Group Listening Session – Rangeland

Wednesday Feb. 17th

Participants:

NRCS Staff - Aaron, Hannah, Stephanie, Tereasa	Jim Dovenberg (Landowner)
	Kurt Spencer (Landowner)
Jack Southworth (Landowner)	Matthew McElligott (Landowner)
Shannon Rust (Landowner)	Matt Wenick (Grant SWCD)
Amy Stiner (SFJDWC)	Nicole Lexson (CTWS)
Hannah Latzo (SFJDWC)	Emma Gabriel (FSA)
Carter Crouch (Burns Paiute Tribe)	Richard Nelson (Landowner)
Genevieve Perdue (BMLT)	
Jeffrey Kee (Landowner)	

Meeting Notes:

Aaron makes introductions, gives purpose for having meeting.

Staff Introductions – Aaron Roth

FSA Overview: Emma Gabriel new CED for Grant county

- Harney/Grant combination
- Programs available, deadlines.

Overview of priority resource concerns in the county.

Grant County Overview (RCPP, EQIP, CSP)

- Amy Stiner discussed the South Fork John Day Watershed Council RCPP project.
 - Southfork boundaries, service area
 - Applied for RCPP in 2019, awarded in 2020.
 - Divided project area into two different areas (Upper and Lower watersheds, see map).
 - Upper: 2021 funding
 - Lower: 2022 funding
 - Open both areas in 2023 for funding
- Funding Opportunities throughout the county: EQIP: Kahler, Ritter. RCPP: Southfork, CTWS Irrigation & ALE.
- State Initiative availability.
- Deadlines

Producer/Partners input – comments- suggestions- questions

1. Jack Southworth:
 - a. Grazing management, annual grasses. Talked about Tony Malmberg providing prescribed grazing school or education opportunities for producers in the county.
2. Shannon Rust:
 - a. Annual grass concerns
3. Jeffrey Kee:
 - a. Challenged with using timber ground for economic benefit. Cooperative partnership availability from NRCS? From range side, CRP? Aaron mentions CRP grasslands, if interested, get ahold of FSA.
 - b. Are BDA's a practice NRCS can do? Aaron mentions that it is a practice NRCS has added but permitting can be a challenge. Other counties have partners willing to help with permitting, might this be an option in Grant County?
 - c. Can NRCS push Forest Service to prioritize areas? Hard to do with so much area, different forests, NEPA is already done for other areas, could take years. Also, landowner interest helps.
 - d. Water quality/quantity. Diverting water, storage.
 - e. Ways to use juniper for landowner cost benefit, mill it, biochar etc. Aaron mentions other partners for that type of research. CIG
 - f. OWRD, water rights. Allocation of Conserved Water Program. Suggest that NRCS discuss these programs with producers'
4. Jim Dovenberg:
 - a. Forest health and annual grasses. Would like to see more funding opportunities in his area.
5. Kurt Spencer:
 - a. Have seen huge improvements from NRCS funding
 - b. Energy, solar. Good opportunities, but not cost effective around here. Carbon sequestration?
 - c. Someone to document success stories to show other people what kind of work can be done.
6. Matt McElligott:
 - a. Fire concerns. Using water storage for fire suppression efforts, not just livestock water.
 - b. Annual grasses, control through grazing management and herbicides

Matt Wenick talks about work that Grant Weed Control has done.

1. New product, Rejuvra and the research coming along with that. Funding opportunities for annual grass treatment.

Emma Gabriel comes on to talk about FSA updates and answers questions:

1. Did interviews for the new technician position. Will be trained in Harney county before moving into Grant full time. Emma will continue to come into Grant County on Tuesdays.

Aaron provided a summary of the comments and spoke about the next listening session.
Adjourned the meeting.

Notes taken by Hannah Mears.