



United States Department of Agriculture



Cropland & Pasture Listening Session  
Call in number: 1-669-254-5252  
Meeting Room # 160 596 5982



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## Grant County Local Work Group Meeting - 2021

Aaron Roth – District Conservationist | February 2021

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# 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.

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# Oregon Local Work Group Meetings

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## 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: <a href="https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605965982">https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605965982</a>  Listening Schedules via Zoom. See Location for Zoom links.  Range: Wed. Feb. 17, 1 to 2 p.m. Zoom Meeting Link: <a href="https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600997101">https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600997101</a>  Forest: Thurs. Feb. 18, 1 to 2 p.m. Zoom Meeting Link: <a href="https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608339836">https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608339836</a>	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 <a href="https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1616520722?pwd=UzRwcTASyXRIUGdWM29sT2Qxdnh3QT09">https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1616520722?pwd=UzRwcTASyXRIUGdWM29sT2Qxdnh3QT09</a>	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)	

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# John Day Field Office Staff

**Aaron Roth** - District Conservationist

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**Hannah Mears** – Soil Conservationist

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**Stephanie Moothart** – Soil Conservationist

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**Tereasa Perkins** – Soil Conservationist Technician

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**Mathew Brown** – ODF – Field Forester

541-575-1139 [matthew.t.brown@oregon.gov](mailto:matthew.t.brown@oregon.gov)

**Austin Reimer** – ODF - AFF Forester

541-575-1139 [austin.b.reimer@oregon.gov](mailto:austin.b.reimer@oregon.gov)

**Vacant** – GSWCD - CREP Technician

*Vacant* – NRCS – Soil Conservationist

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# 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 15<sup>th</sup>
- Deadline for spring planting and non-NAP Insurance producers is July 15<sup>th</sup>

### 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 28<sup>th</sup> and we are working through the hiring process

## Harney County Executive Director – Emma Gabriel

[emma.gabriel@usda.gov](mailto:emma.gabriel@usda.gov) (541) 573-6446



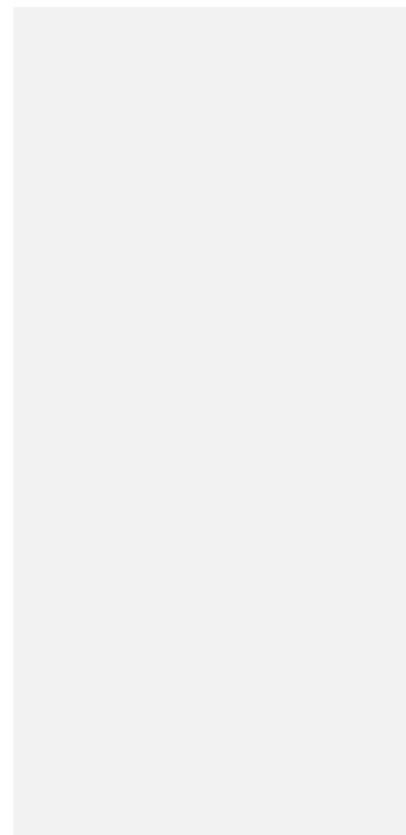
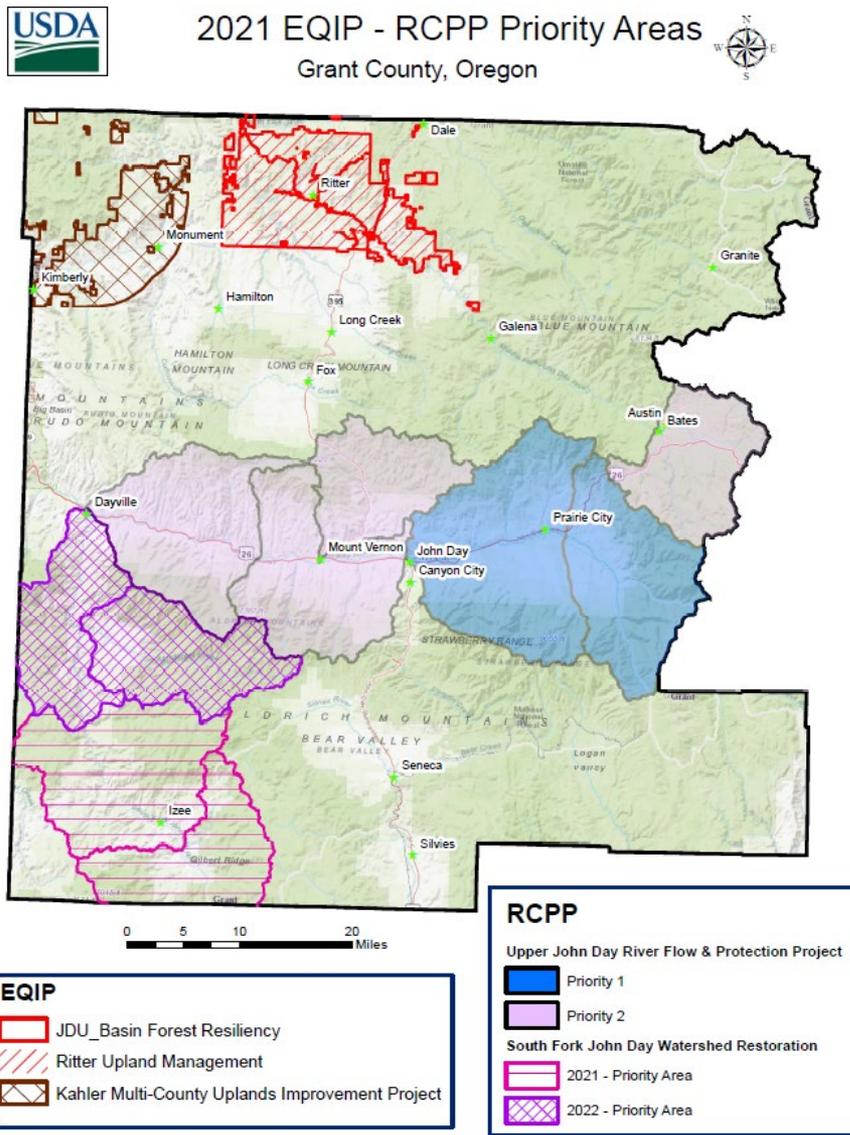
# Local Work Group Priorities

## 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



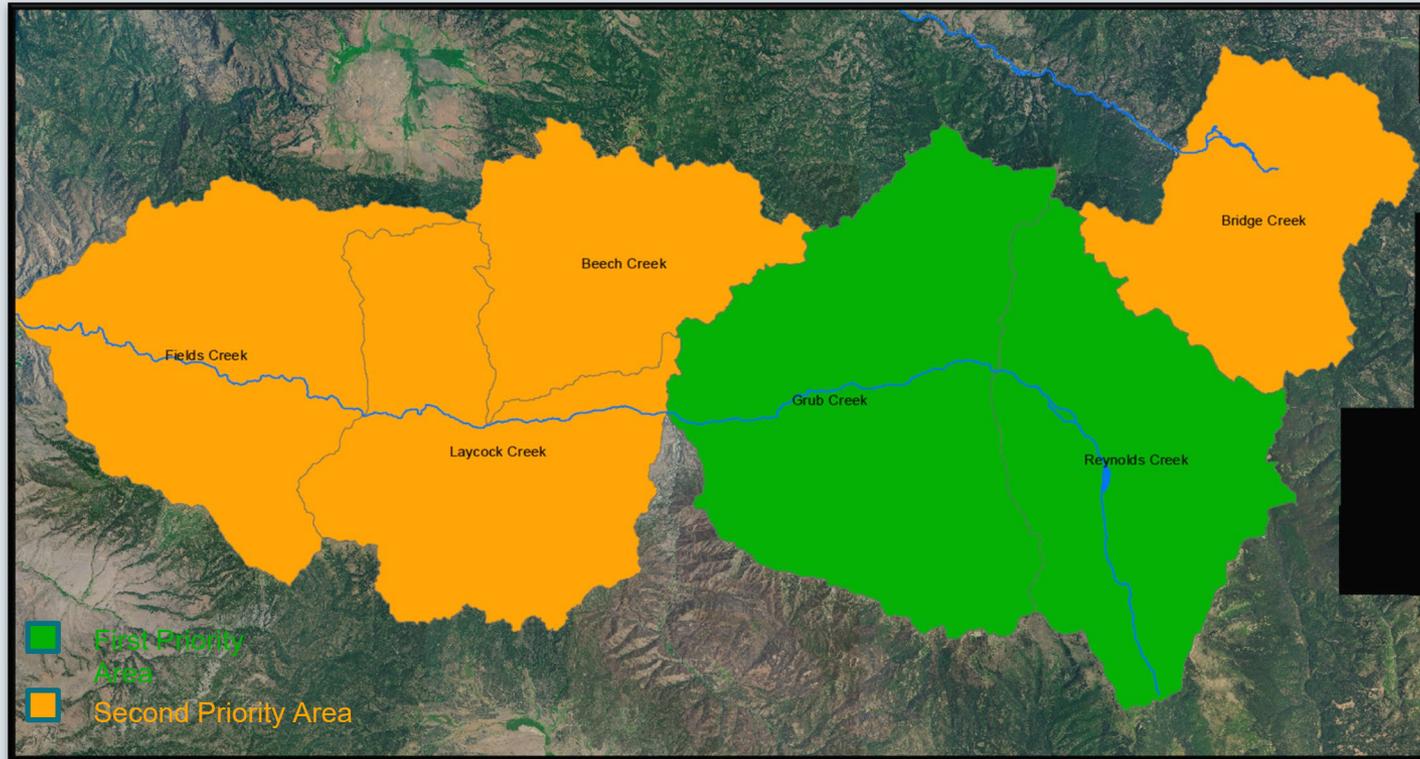
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# Upper John Day River Flow and Protection Project

Confederated Tribes Of Warm Springs and Natural Resources Conservation Services



## NRCS- EQIP

Financial assistance is available for private landowners within the RCPP project boundary that would like to implement irrigation efficiency projects, stock water projects, irrigation water management project and more.

Irrigation efficiency projects will include all conservation practices needed for the specific property and approved by the individual private landowner. EQIP and partner dollars will combine to maximize restoration work for each of these projects.

## ACEP-ALE

- ACEP-ALE money will be used to help acquire working lands conservation easements that will help restore, protect, and enhance important lands to improve overall watershed health and protect agricultural viability. Working lands conservation easements will be established on private lands to protect critical habitat for fish and wildlife in perpetuity, while also protecting strong riparian communities that can keep the watershed functioning at a desirable level to meet the demands of agricultural production and water users
- By entering into a conservation easement on your private lands, it ensures that your land will not be subdivided at any point and will be protected in perpetuity. There are additional incentives for landowners such as tax benefits and/or cash payments.

## Contact Information

Nicole Lexson  
CTWS Restoration project Manager  
(541) 777-2838  
[nicole.lexson@ctwsbnr.org](mailto:nicole.lexson@ctwsbnr.org)

Aaron Roth  
NRCS District Conservationist  
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Amanda "Marti" Martino (ACEP-ALE)  
BMLT Conservation Director  
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Cell: (248) 635-0946  
[marti@bmlt.org](mailto:marti@bmlt.org)



# NRCS Irrigation Projects Consideration

- **Need to have irrigated the ground 2 of the last 5 years.**
- **Design will be based on water rights which will be verified.**
- **Diversion need to allow fish passage and have a functioning fish screen.**
- **Must be willing to work with other partners and landowners on shared ditches.**
- **NRCS funding is for on farm improvements**



# 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 16<sup>th</sup> 2021

## ➤ Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Deadlines for Applications is March 26<sup>th</sup> 2021



# Grant County Listening Session

## Cropland/Pastureland

Tuesday February 16<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 2 pm

## Rangeland

Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 2 pm

## Forestland

Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 2 pm

**Aaron Roth** - District Conservationist

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## Local Work Group Listening Session – Cropland Session

Tuesday Feb. 16th

Attendees:

NRCS Staff - Aaron, Hannah, Tereasa	
Jack Southworth –(landowner)	
Jim Kennedy – (landowner)	
Nicole Lexson (CTWS)	
Hannah Latzo (SFJDWC)	
Amy Stiner (SFJDWC)	
Kylie Skidgel (NRCS Moderator)	

### 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.

Nicole Lexson gives overview of RCPP and ACEP-ALE for Irrigation and Easements

- Aaron explains some of the NRCS requirements for irrigation related RCPP projects.

Grant County Overview (RCPP, EQIP, CSP)

1. Funding Priorities throughout the county: Kahler, Ritter, Southfork, Irrigation.
2. State Initiative availability.
3. Deadlines

Producer/Partners input – comments- suggestions- questions

1. Jack Southworth: Talks about resource concerns, likes our priority resource concerns.
  - a. Soil Health: tillage, cover, encourages to incorporate more soil health principles
  - b. Would like to see more grazing plans opportunities. Benefit perennial grasses.
  - c. Pasture improvements through interseeding, minimal tillage, introducing diversity.
  - d. Comments for rangeland would be the same.

- e. Asks NRCS staff about thoughts on priorities: Answers include: Annual grasses, Stock water, cross fencing.
  - f. Has question about how CSP funding is allocated throughout the county. Aaron answers (Each State get and allocation, In Oregon it is future broken down into zones)
2. Jim Kennedy:
- a. Annual grasses, carbon sequestration priorities
  - b. Water quality and quantity through juniper work.

-Limited irrigated/pasture ground in the Ritter area

3. Amy Stiner:
- a. With increasing drought, looking at water storage options through reservoirs and more groundwater storage.

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

Meeting poll and adjourned the meeting.

Notes taken by Hannah Mears.