



United States Department of Agriculture



**OREGON**  
Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service



# Grant County Local Work Group Meeting - 2021

Aaron Roth – District Conservationist | January 2021

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# Meeting Agenda



- **Welcome and Local Work Group Meeting Overview**
- **New NRCS Staff**
- **FSA CREP 2020 Summary**
- **Review 2020 EQIP/RCPP/CSP Contracts**
- **Review 2021 Conservation Implementation Strategies**
- **2021 Drought Outlook**
- **Emerging Technology**
- **Grant County Demographics**
- **Website Resources / Customer Service / Local Input Opportunities**
- **Funding Opportunities Beyond 2021**
- **Review of County Priority Resource Concerns/ New Project Ideas**
- **Zoom meeting Listening Sessions**



# 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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# 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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# FSA - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- **This program provides a rental rate for enrolled acreage and funding for the following practices:**
  - Riparian Fencing
  - Tree and Shrub Plantings
  - Grass Seeding
  - Weed Control
  - Juniper Control and Piling
- **These practices are used to protect and enhance aquatic and riparian tributary habitats and to address water quality issues listed in the local Ag Water Quality Management Area Plans.**
- **The CREP tech funding was awarded to the Grant SWCD for the years 2020 and 2021. The position services both Baker and Grant counties.**



# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - Grant County Summary

- **One Mid-management plan was designed and implemented in 2020**
- **Eight applications were received and seven went to contract in 2020**
- **Three contacts expired in 2020 and only one project was renewed.**

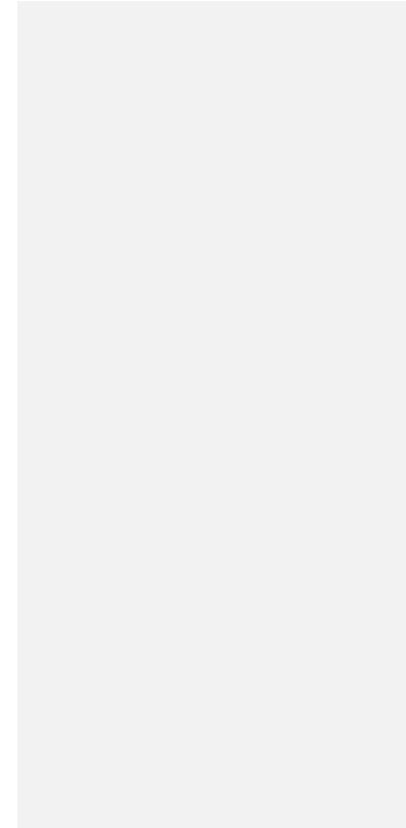




# Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) 2020 Summary



Funding Pool	# of Contracts	\$ Obligated	Acres of Treatment
JDU Basin Forest Resiliency	2	\$168,950	244 acres

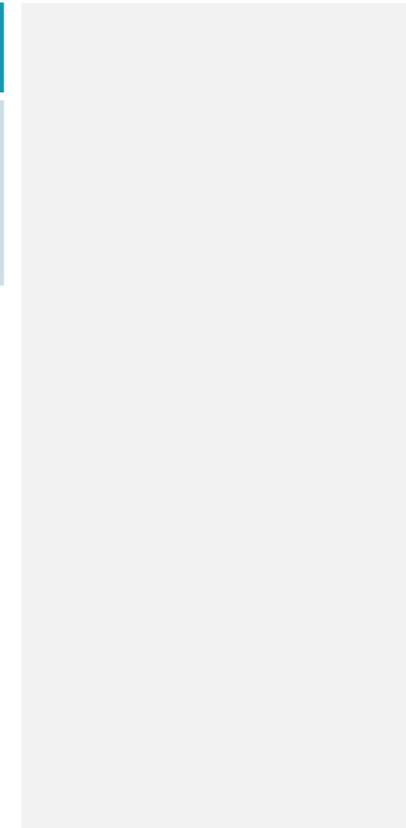


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# Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – 2020 Summary

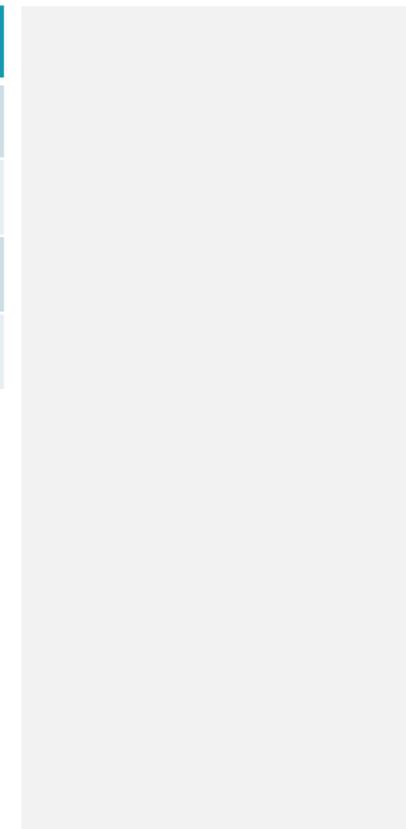
Funding Pool	# of Contracts	\$ Obligated	Acres of Treatment
Blue Mountains Vegetative Health Initiative	5	\$217,631	<u>140 ac.</u> Pre- commercial thinning <u>345 ac.</u> Juniper removal



# Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) 2020 Summary

Funding Pool	# of Contracts	\$ Obligated	Acres
2020 - Renewal	3	\$359,918	12,334
2020 - Classic	10	\$1,104,616	31,088
RCPP - CSP	2	\$343,606	5,204
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$1,808,140</b>	<b>48,626</b>

- 4 Forestry Contracts
- 11 Ag Contracts



# 2021 Grant County Funding Opportunities

## ➤ RCPP

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

## ➤ 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**



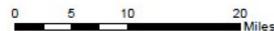
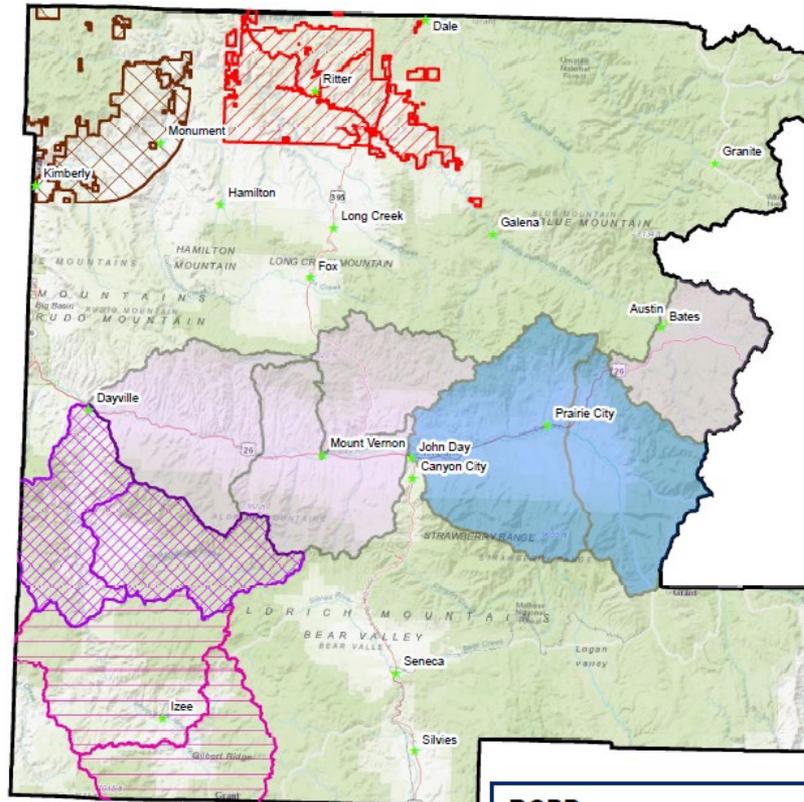
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# 2021 Grant County Funding Priority Map



## 2021 EQIP - RCPP Priority Areas Grant County, Oregon

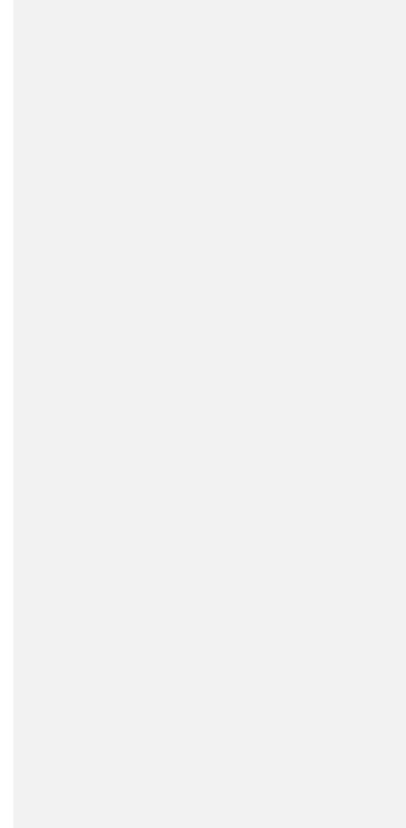


**EQIP**

- JDU\_Basin Forest Resiliency
- Ritter Upland Management
- Kahler Multi-County Uplands Improvement Project

**RCPP**

- Upper John Day River Flow & Protection Project
  - Priority 1
  - Priority 2
- South Fork John Day Watershed Restoration
  - 2021 - Priority Area
  - 2022 - Priority Area



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# CSP



- **CSP Renewals 2021**

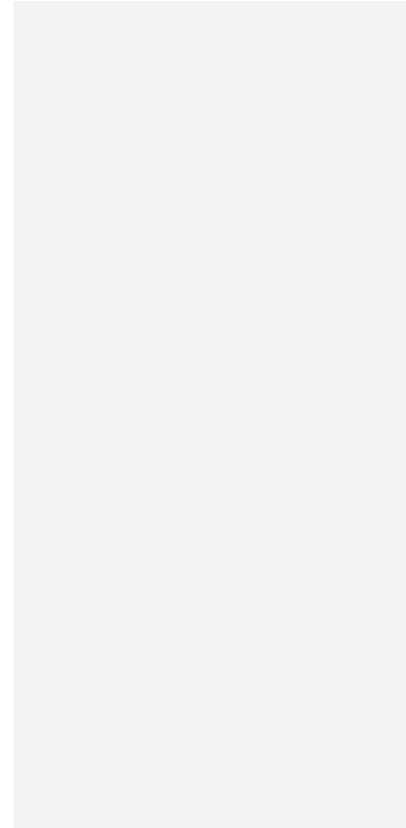
- Application and ranking was completed in fall of 2020.
- 6 applications were selected for funding.
- Contacts will be obligated in February 2021.

- **CSP Classic**

- Application Deadline TBD

- **CSP and changes in the 2018 Farm Bill**

- Reduced Funding from \$9 billion to \$4 billion in new farm bill
- NRCS more involved with the enhancements and certification
- Enhancements are tied to EQIP practices and require field verification



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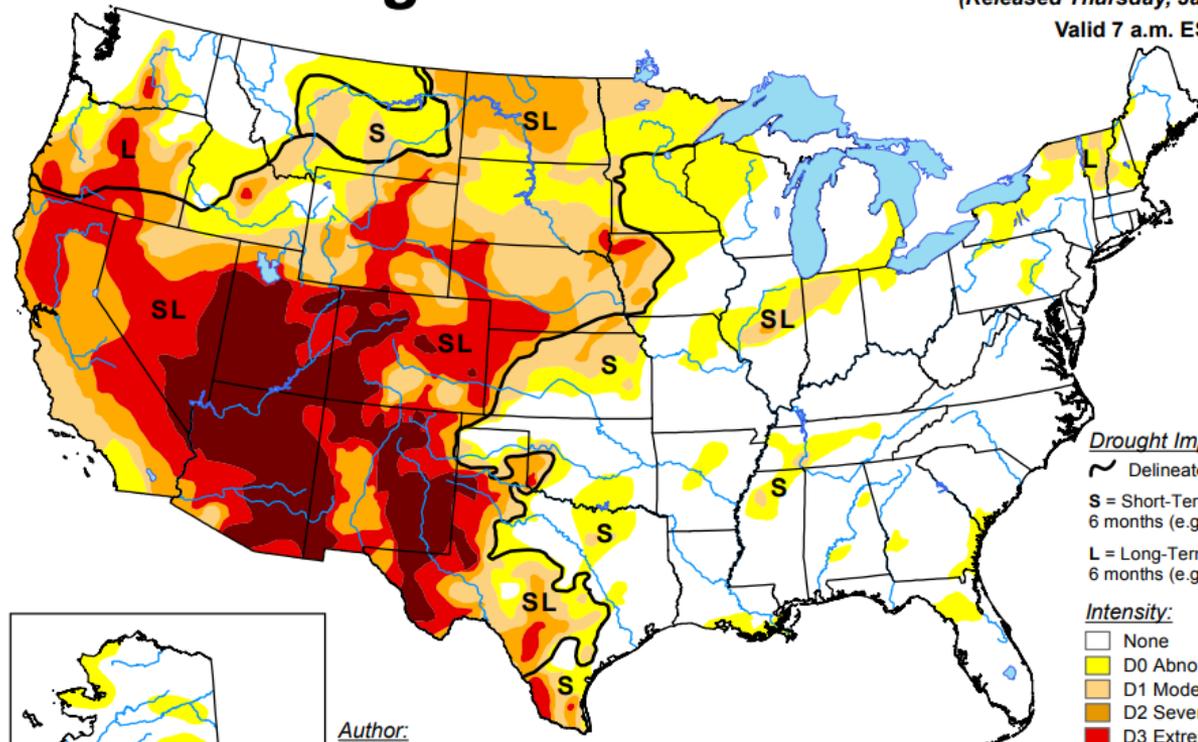


# 2021 Drought Outlook



## U.S. Drought Monitor

January 12, 2021  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

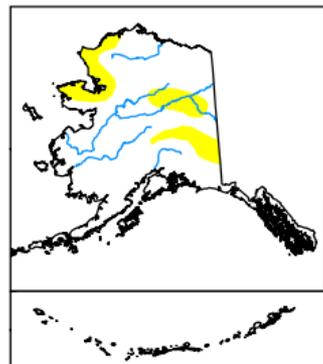


**Drought Impact Types:**

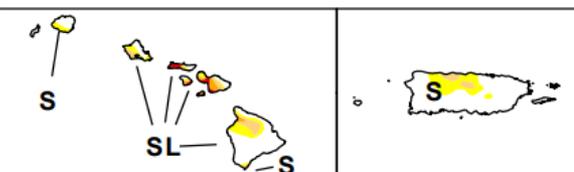
- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought



**Author:**  
Deborah Bathke  
National Drought Mitigation Center



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

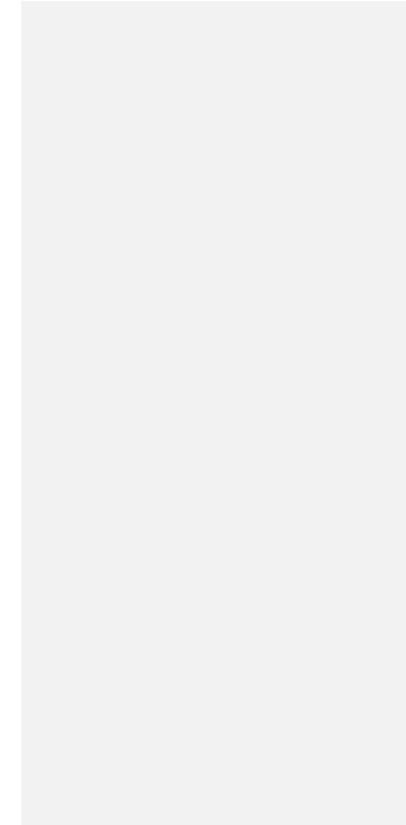
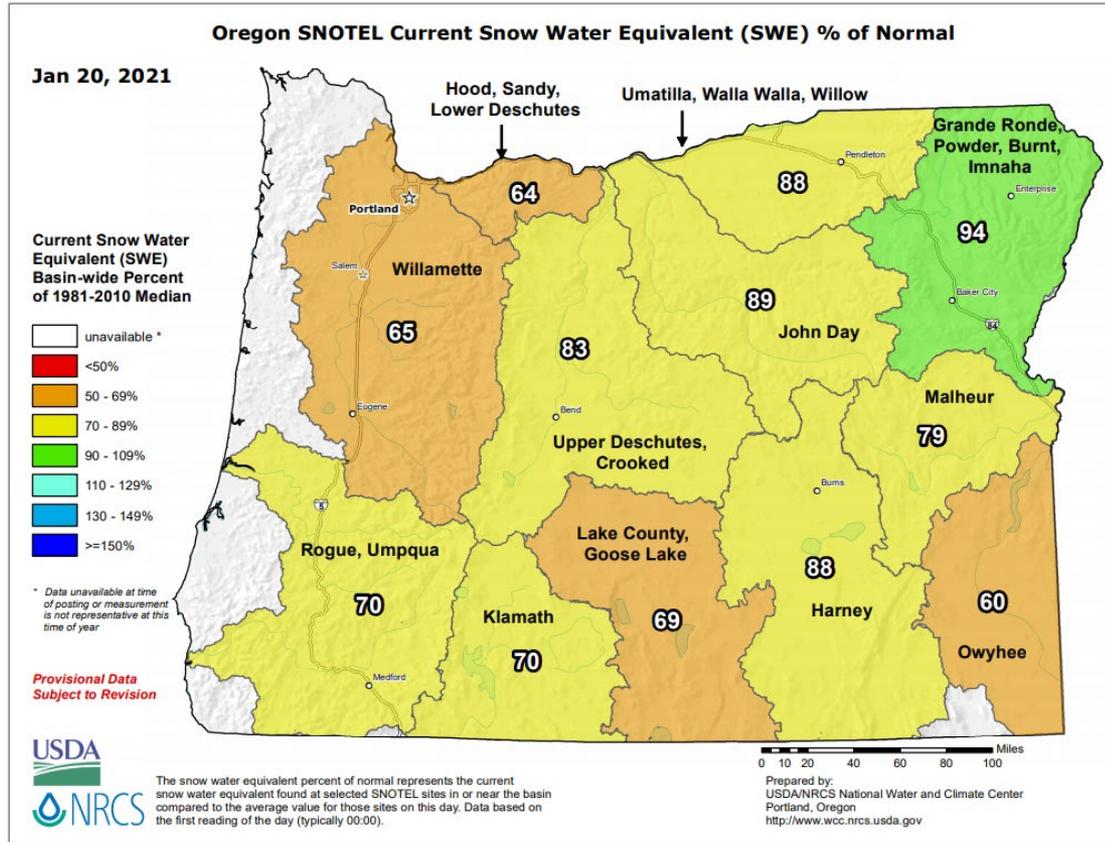


[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

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# SNOTEL – Snow Water Equivalent



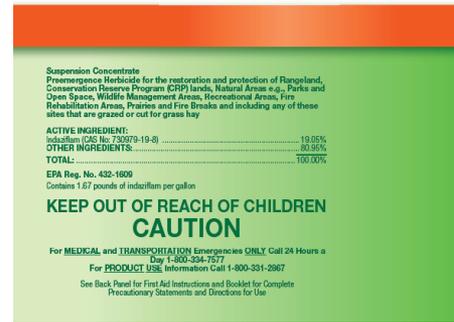
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# Emerging Technologies

- New registration for use on Rangeland
- Preemergent herbicide
- Does not break down in the sun
- May keep annuals out for up to 4 years
- Site consideration
- Cost consideration



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# Grant County Demographics



**2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE** *County Profile*

**Grant County Oregon**

**Total and Per Farm Overview, 2017 and change since 2012**

	2017	% change since 2012
Number of farms	383	-4
Land in farms (acres)	628,895	-4
Average size of farm (acres)	1,642	(Z)
<b>Total (\$)</b>		
Market value of products sold	24,129,000	-5
Government payments	1,295,000	+44
Farm-related income	3,138,000	+88
Total farm production expenses	28,877,000	+9
Net cash farm income	-117,000	-107
<b>Per farm average (\$)</b>		
Market value of products sold	62,899	-1
Government payments (average per farm receiving)	15,989	+5
Farm-related income	23,935	+107
Total farm production expenses	74,874	+14
Net cash farm income	-307	-107

**(Z) Percent of state agriculture sales**

**Share of Sales by Type (%)**

Crops	14
Livestock, poultry, and products	86

**Land in Farms by Use (%) <sup>a</sup>**

Cropland	10
Pastureland	72
Woodland	16
Other	2

**Acres irrigated: 34,500**

5% of land in farms

**Land Use Practices (% of farms)**

No till	4
Reduced till	(Z)
Intensive till	7
Cover crop	5

**Farms by Value of Sales**

	Number	Percent of Total <sup>a</sup>
Less than \$2,500	142	37
\$2,500 to \$4,999	58	15
\$5,000 to \$9,999	42	11
\$10,000 to \$24,999	37	10
\$25,000 to \$49,999	23	6
\$50,000 to \$99,999	27	7
\$100,000 or more	58	15

**Farms by Size**

	Number	Percent of Total <sup>a</sup>
1 to 9 acres	58	15
10 to 49 acres	74	19
50 to 179 acres	70	18
180 to 499 acres	57	15
500 to 999 acres	33	9
1,000 + acres	91	24



2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE *County Profile*

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold

	Sales (\$1,000)	Rank in State <sup>a</sup>	Counties Producing Item	Rank in U.S. <sup>b</sup>	Counties Producing Item
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,129</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2,271</b>	<b>3,077</b>
<b>Crops</b>	<b>3,291</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2,533</b>	<b>3,073</b>
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, dry peas	38	30	34	2,503	2,916
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	323
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	647
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes	(D)	35	36	(D)	2,821
Fruits, tree nuts, berries	(D)	21	35	(D)	2,748
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod	(D)	32	34	(D)	2,601
Cultivated Christmas trees, short rotation woody crops	1	23	24	614	1,384
Other crops and hay	2,882	23	36	885	3,040
<b>Livestock, poultry, and products</b>	<b>20,838</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>3,073</b>
Poultry and eggs	(D)	9	36	(D)	3,007
Cattle and calves	19,973	12	36	795	3,055
Milk from cows	(D)	27	27	1,154	1,892
Hogs and pigs	15	26	35	1,447	2,856
Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, milk	117	27	36	1,159	2,984
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, donkeys	228	21	35	868	2,970
Aquaculture	(D)	23	27	(D)	1,251
Other animals and animal products	50	25	34	991	2,878

<b>Total Producers<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>689</b>
<b>Sex</b>	
Male	396
Female	293
<b>Age</b>	
<35	67
35 – 64	354
65 and older	268
<b>Race</b>	
American Indian/Alaska Native	3
Asian	-
Black or African American	-
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	-
White	678
More than one race	8
<b>Other characteristics</b>	
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish origin	10
With military service	82
<b>New and beginning farmers</b>	<b>215</b>

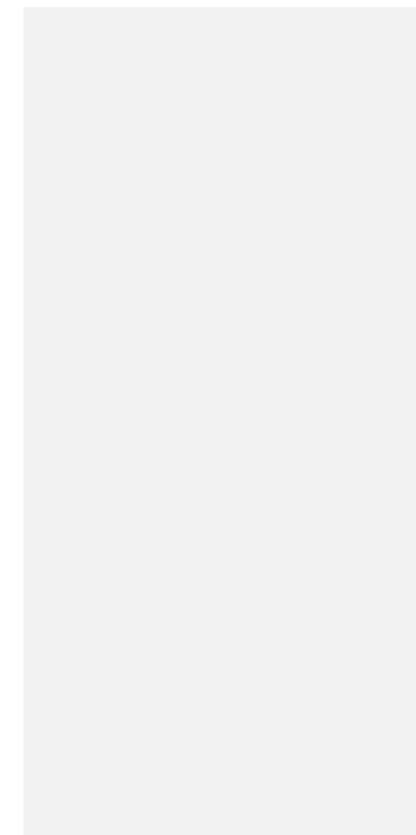
57%  
43%  
  
10%  
51%  
39%

31%

<b>Percent of farms that:</b>	
Have internet access	<b>77</b>
Farm organically	<b>1</b>
Sell directly to consumers	<b>10</b>
Hire farm labor	<b>23</b>
Are family farms	<b>99</b>

<b>Top Crops in Acres<sup>d</sup></b>	
Forage (hay/haylage), all	36,656
Wheat for grain, all	135
Oats for grain	(D)
Barley for grain	(D)
Cherries, sweet	(D)
<b>Livestock Inventory (Dec 31, 2017)</b>	
Broilers and other meat-type chickens	194
Cattle and calves	35,213
Goats	(D)
Hogs and pigs	51
Horses and ponies	912
Layers	933
Pullets	104
Sheep and lambs	214
Turkeys	86

See 2017 Census of Agriculture, U.S. Summary and State Data, for complete footnotes, explanations, definitions, commodity descriptions, and methodology.  
<sup>a</sup> May not add to 100% due to rounding. <sup>b</sup> Among counties whose rank can be displayed. <sup>c</sup> Data collected for a maximum of four producers per farm.  
<sup>d</sup> Crop commodity names may be shortened; see full names at [www.nass.usda.gov/go/cropnames.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/go/cropnames.pdf). \* Position below the line does not indicate rank.  
 (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (NA) Not available. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown. (-) Represents zero.





# Technology, Customer Service, Local Input



**USDA Engages Public for Input on Water Quantity in the West**

NRCS is hosting a listening session starting December 17 to get public input on water quantity in the west. Learn more about the session or providing feedback here.

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**Quick Links**

- Public Notices
- Partnerships in Oregon
- Assistance for Oregon Tribes
- Oregon's Strategic Approach
- Oregon's Local Work Group Meetings**
- Oregon Technical Advisory Committee (OTAC)

**Current FY21 Funding Opportunities**

Interactive Map of Current Funding for Fiscal Year 2021

**Conservation Client Gateway**

**What's Available In My County?**

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program**

**Soil Health**

## Oregon NRCS Website:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/or/home/>



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# Oregon Local Work Group Meetings

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

Natural Resources Conservation Service





# OR NRCS – Interactive Map



**Oregon's Strategic Approach to Conservation**

About the Strategic Approach | **RCPP** | Joint Chiefs

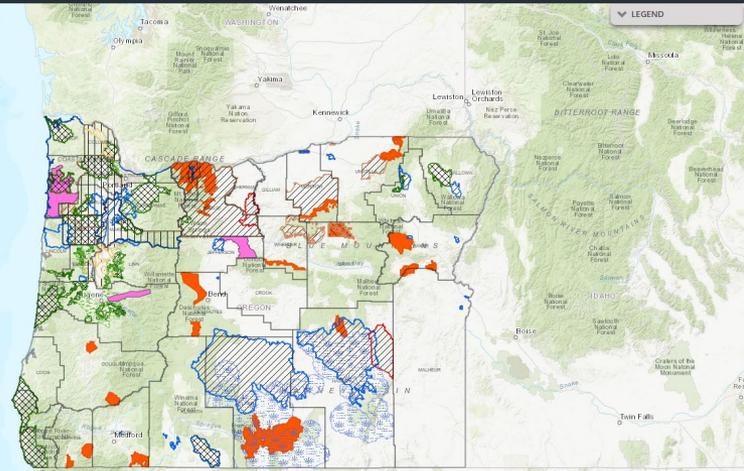


**OREGON'S STRATEGIC APPROACH TO CONSERVATION**

Oregon's Strategic Approach to Conservation

This map shows current funding opportunities for Oregon farmers, ranchers and forestland owners to obtain financial assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through its Strategic Approach to Conservation. If your farm, ranch, or forestland is located within one of these project areas, you may be eligible for financial assistance to help you perform conservation activities on your land.

Even if your land is outside of one of these areas, you may be eligible for other Statewide programs such as initiatives, the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), or conservation easements. [Contact your local USDA Service Center to learn more.](#)



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**Oregon's Strategic Approach to Conservation**

About the Strategic Approach | **RCPP** | Joint Chiefs



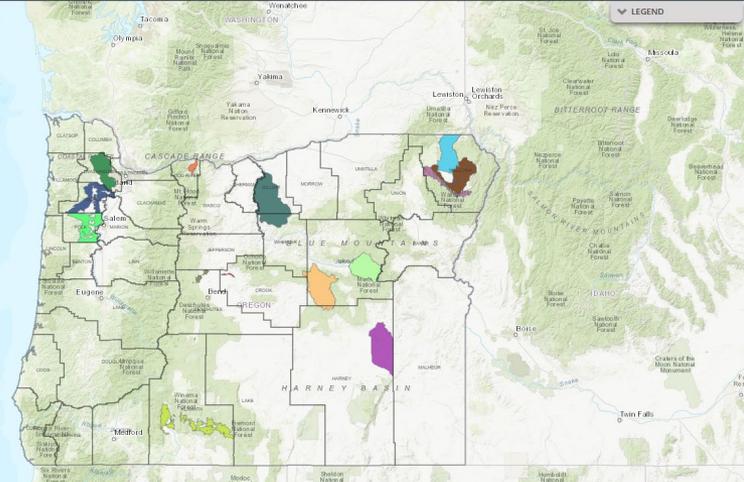
**RCPP**  
REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

This map shows current funding opportunities for farmers, ranchers and woodland owners through the USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

RCPP offers opportunities for the NRCS, conservation partners and agricultural producers to work together to harness innovation, expand the conservation mission and demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

Through RCPP, NRCS and its partners help producers implement and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved.



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Oregon NRCS



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# Grant County NRCS Webpage



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[Stay Connected](#)

- Programs**
- Farm Bill
  - Financial Assistance
  - Easements
  - Landscape Initiatives
  - Landscape Planning



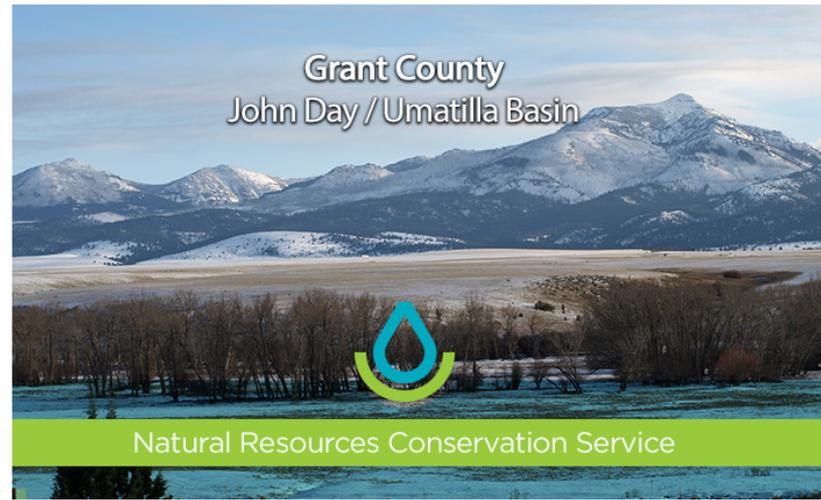
THINKING ABOUT WORKING WITH NRCS?

Here's what you need to know.

Can you answer YES to all the following questions?

PRODUCER ELIGIBILITY	YES	NO	LAND ELIGIBILITY	YES	NO
1. Do you own or lease the land?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1. Is the land in the county?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Do you have a farm or ranch?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	2. Is the land in a rural area?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Do you have a business or other activity on the land?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	3. Is the land in a riparian area?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Grant County - Information for Partners and Participants



Grant County has an area of 4,528 square miles, or 2.9 million acres. Over 60 percent of the county is publicly owned with national forests comprising approximately 54 percent of the county. The private land in Grant County, about 1.1 million acres, is made up of 70% rangeland, 24% forest, 4% irrigated and 3% dryland crop. The NRCS office, located in John Day, offers voluntary technical and financial assistance to private landowners interested in natural resource conservation improvements. Historically the NRCS has focused on rangeland and irrigation improvements, and more recently has started working on forest health improvements on private land.

### Grant County Long Range Plan

NRCS Oregon uses a *Strategic Approach to Conservation* to address priority natural resource concerns in specific watersheds and landscapes across the state. It all begins with a *Long Range Plan*. Each county develops a Long Range Plan with input from landowners, agency partners and other stakeholders that identifies and prioritizes natural resource concerns in the community. Based on those plans, NRCS works with partners to develop local *Conservation Implementation Strategies* to help agricultural producers in those targeted areas implement conservation practices that address the resource concerns. *Long Range Plans* are updated to reflect the changing needs and objectives of the county's natural resources.

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/programs/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_044033](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/programs/?cid=nrcs142p2_044033)



Natural Resources Conservation Service

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## Coronavirus and USDA Assistance for Farmers

We are committed to delivering USDA programs and services to America's farmers and ranchers while taking safety measures in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

[Learn About Resources](#)



### Coronavirus Updates

- [Impacts on H-2A](#)
- [USDA's Coronavirus Page](#)

### The Seafood Trade Relief Program

If you are a U.S. fisherman impacted by retaliatory tariffs,

### Program Deadlines

Dec 31, 2020 [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance](#)

Feedback

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## New Farmers.gov Feature Enables USDA Customers to Manage Conservation Activities Online

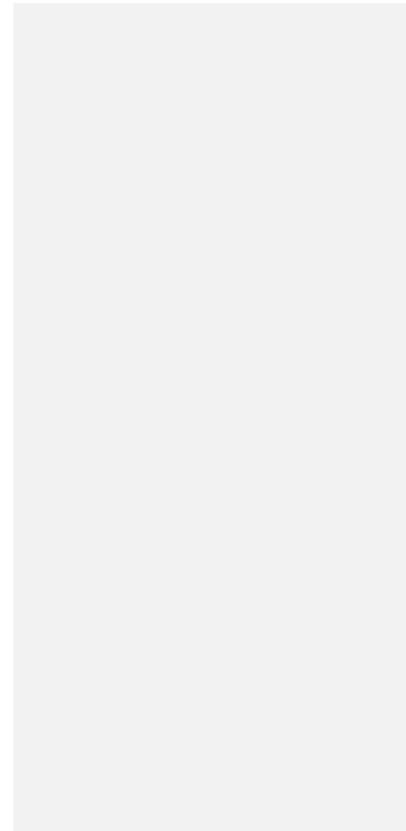
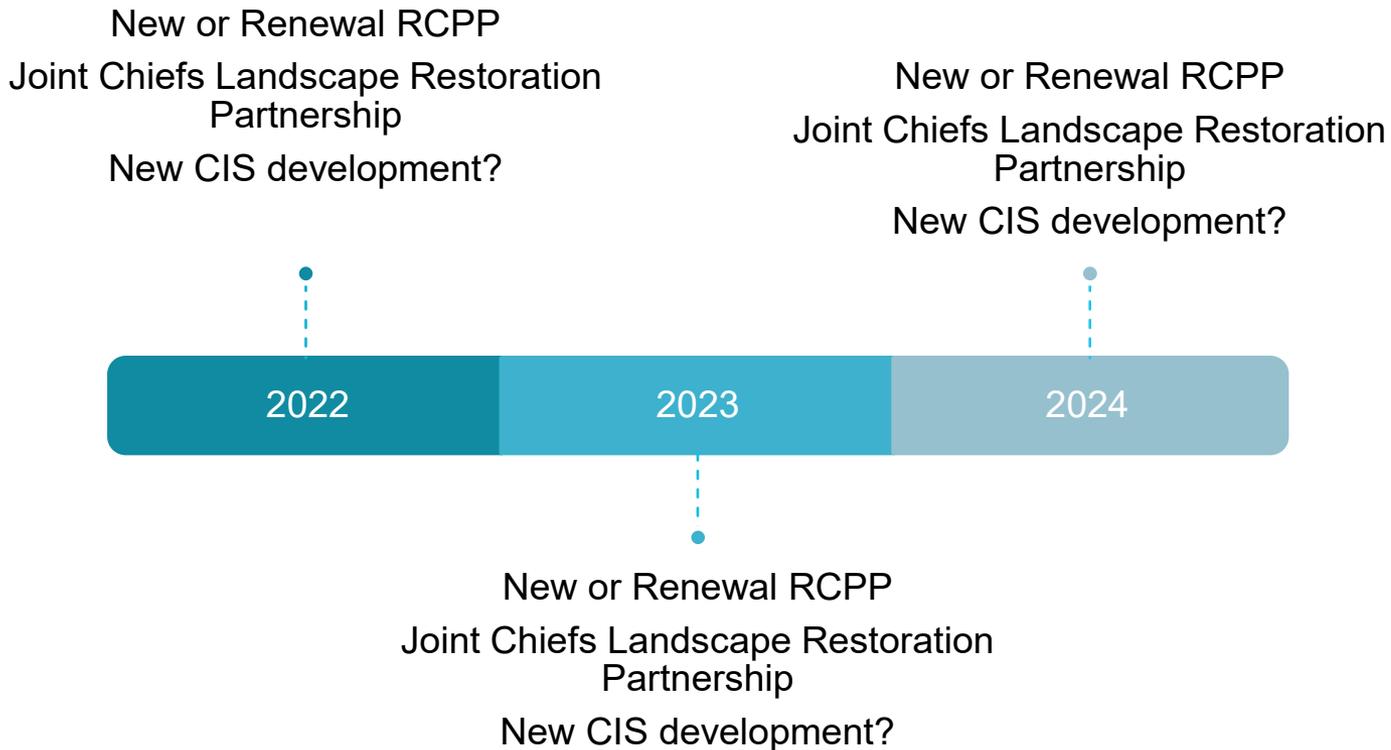
Feedback



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# Funding Opportunities Beyond 2021



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# 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)



# Grant County Listening Session

- **Break out sessions by land use.**
  1. Review Resource Concerns
  2. Review Current and Future Project Areas
  3. Gather Input
  4. Potential Partners?

## 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



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