



United States Department of Agriculture



Forestland Listening Session
Call in number: 1-669-254-5252
Meeting Room # 160 833 9836



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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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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)	

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John Day Field Office Staff

Aaron Roth - District Conservationist

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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 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

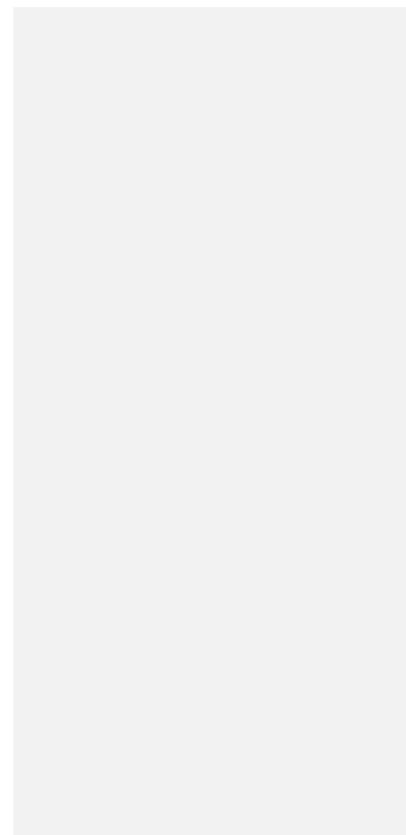
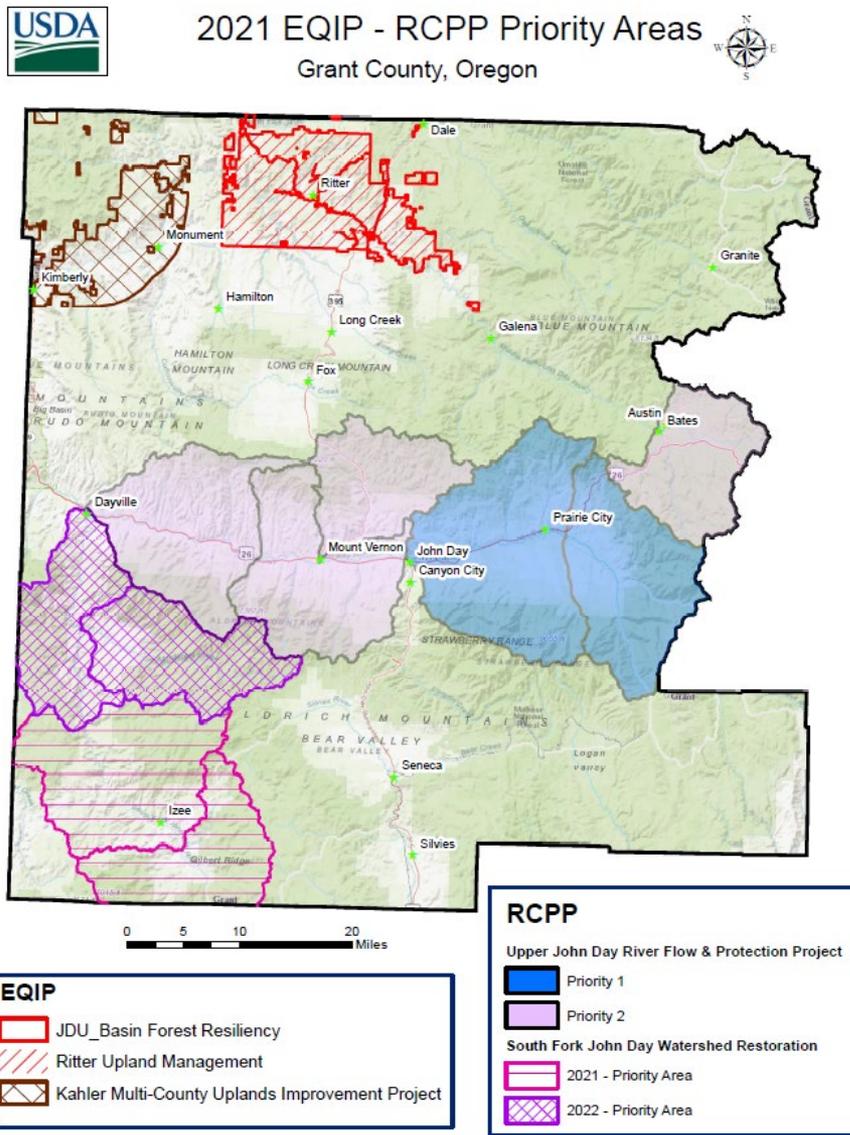
1. Invasive Species (including juniper, annual grasses & herbaceous weeds) sweet briar rose?
2. Forest Health (including aspen restoration)
3. Grazing Management (including stock water developments and cross-fencing for private lands)
4. Water Quality/Quantity (including irrigation efficiency improvements,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

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2021 Grant County Funding Priority Map



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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

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Local Work Group Listening Session – Forestry

Thursday Feb. 18th

Participants:

NRCS Staff – Aaron, Hannah, Stephanie, Tereasa	Jeffrey Kee (Landowner)
Kylie Skidgel (NRCS Co-Host)	Mitch Mund (Landowner)
Amy Stiner (SFJDWC)	Jim Dovenberg (Landowner)
Andrew Owen (NRCS)	Jim Kennedy (Landowner)
Kirk Ausland (ODF)	Nicole Lexson (CTWS)
Kurt Spencer (Landowner)	Richard Nelson (Landowner)
Austin Reimer (ODF)	Matthew Brown (ODF)
Kyle Sullivan (Grant SWCD)	Allison Blair (ODF)
Carter Crouch (Burns Paiute Tribe)	

Meeting Notes:

Aaron/Kylie Skidgel make introductions, overview of past meetings, what will be discussed this session.

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)

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

Producer/Partners input – comments- suggestions- questions

1. Kurt Spencer: Reiterates reservoir, water storage options throughout the county.
2. Richard Nelson: Talked more about interested in water storage.
Aaron mentions possible CIS options, prioritization, how could this be done for the county.

Fire breaks throughout forest. Roadless area is a huge hazard. Private/Public interface.

3. Kirk Ausland: Talks about boundaries with public land and how much of that kind of work is being done. Potential area to work would be the Long Creek, Fox valley areas down towards Hamilton. Landowner is doing a large-scale commercial operation in the area. This area was supported by Matthew and Austin as well.

4. Jeffree Kee: NEPA studies must be done before work can be completed on Forest Service land. Old growth stands that are adjacent to private lands need treatment.

Andrew Owen also explains options NRCS can help with, including some changes to the specifications to address forest health.

Jeffrey would like someone from the Ritter collaborative group to talk next year about project successes and challenges, using the juniper for the mill has gone.

Aaron talks about all the people we are working with to make these types of projects happen, funding, and timing. Looking at Joint Chiefs funding.

5. Jim Dovenberg: Wants more funding opportunities in his area.

Aaron mentions partners that maybe working in the area and suggests getting ahold of neighbors to come together and help create a CIS. This could be a large area to get the needed interests to support a CIS.

6. Mitch Mund: Prescribed burning is high on his list and would like to get more fire back into the county after pre commercial thinning but also after juniper cutting.

7. Kyle Sullivan: Discussed what their funding opportunities are. PCT in the upper valley through OWEB, RCPP funding spent, working on the match.

Aaron provided a summary of the comments.

Kylie takes poll and adjourns meeting.

Notes taken by Hannah Mears.