

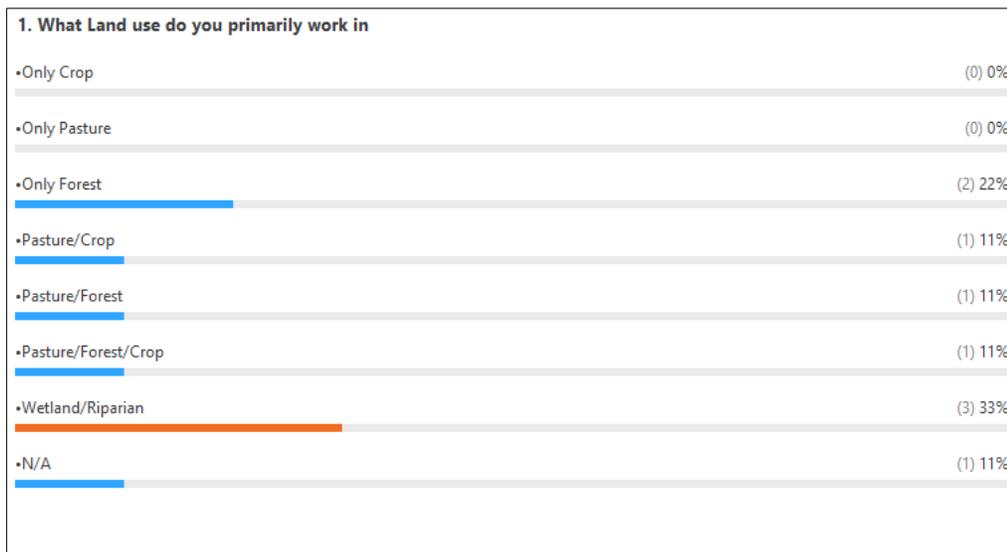
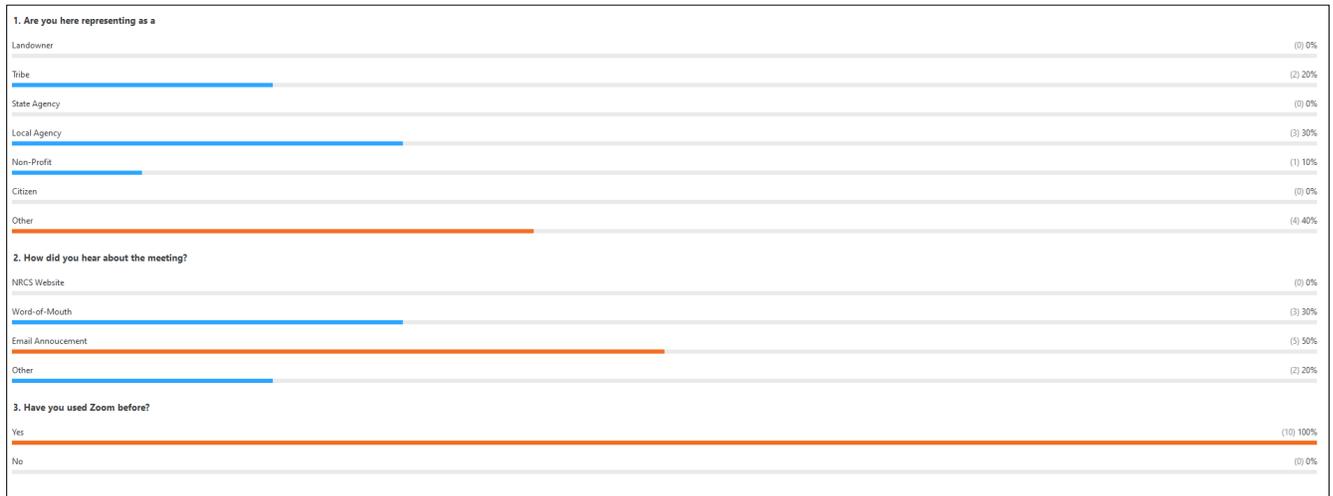
West Lane County Local Workgroup Meeting Notes

February 17, 2021

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Katlyn Woodruff, Acting Lincoln-West Lane County District Conservationist

Poll Questions



1. Which of the following would you be interested in?



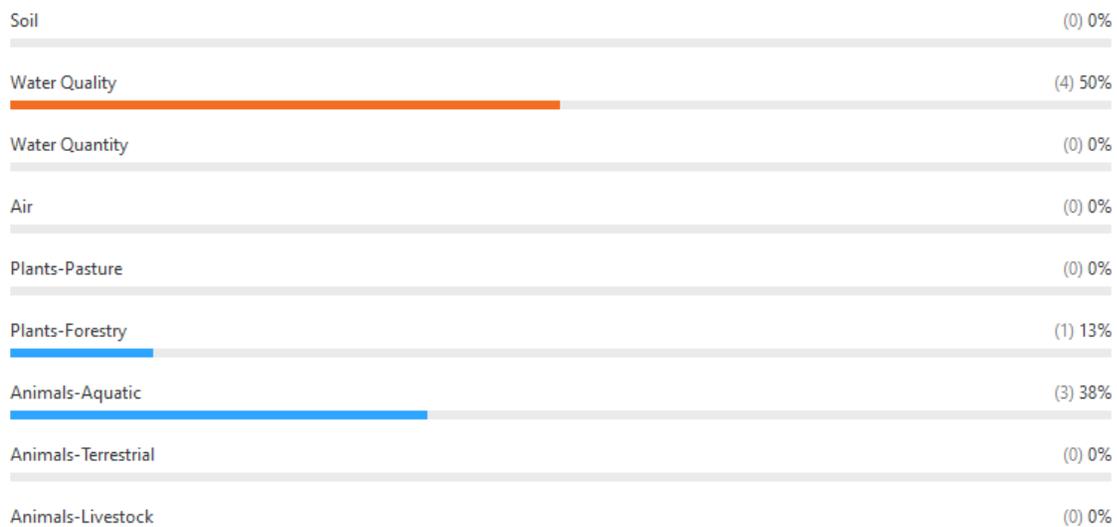
2. Are you interested in applying to the Forest Resistance and Resilience CIS?



1. Would you be interested in applying to:



1. What resource concerns are folks most interested in next?



Discussion Notes

Noxious Weeds

Several participants agreed that noxious weeds including blackberry, ivy, and knotweed were out of hand. It was noted they dominate wetland and riparian areas. There is interest in noxious weeds being discussed as something to address.

Aquatic invasive species were noted as an issue as well. From aquatic plants to aquatic animals (e.g. zebra mussels)

Partnering Opportunities

There was discussion from several participants regarding strengthening partnerships and getting funding connected to landowners who are ready and willing to implement. Comments included:

- The uniqueness of the Siuslaw area and its conservation community and their capacity to successfully implement projects when everything comes together.
- Several partners acknowledged concern for NRCS funding being “left on the table” and hope to help better outreach in areas where funding is available.
 - It was noted that timing has been a challenge between when projects were ready to go and when money has been available. The hope is that in the future this can be overcome.
- The hope that the partners can all work together better to point complimentary efforts in the same direction to better leverage what each has to offer.
- NRCS expressed its interest and commitment to build the connections with partners such as the Tribe and Watershed Councils to better utilize funding where landowners are ready and willing.
 - It was suggested that the partners (following safe COVID precautions) tour areas of the county where know projects are and strategize how to jump start connections.
 - Feedback from partners regarding the current Conservation Implementation Strategy boundaries and how adjustments might bring in clients was provided. Partners will work with NRCS to discuss boundary adjustments.
- Clarification was provided on who can apply for USDA programs. Private landowners including Tribes, and land trusts are eligible for USDA programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). It was noted that NRCS works on non-industrial private forest lands and that an applicant must have an adjusted gross income less than \$900,000.00 to be eligible.

- It was noted that the region has a long history of collaboration, coordination, and cooperation and regardless of what you call it, at the core it is history of partners coming to the table with their resources and aiming to solve natural resource problems. It was encouraged to continue that spirit in all future work.
- It was noted that the more partners understand each other's programs the better they can make connections and leverage each other's resources.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs

Information regarding the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) was shared:

- Agricultural Lands Easements (ALE) are designed to work with landowners for the acquisition of lands to an easement held by a third party that keeps the land in agricultural production. There is a 50% match requirement. Currently the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Oregon Ag Heritage Foundation work to help with the match requirements.
- Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) are designed to maintain and restore wetland habitat.
- It was noted that if there is growing interest in ALE, this can be noted in the Long Range Plan and the ground work started to bring the program to this county.
- Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) was mentioned. There is additional money coming that NRCS is looking to target most effectively.
 - Support for HFRP was noted, especially the safe harbor component.

Regional Conservation Planning Partnership

- The Regional Conservation Planning Partnership (RCPP) is a NRCS program available for partners to use NRCS funding for project implementation. The NRCS works with the partner for technical assistance.
- Under the umbrella of RCPP, ALE like HFRP are available.
- RCPP is nationally funded. Oregon received around \$4 million last year.
- It was noted that the Siuslaw Coho Partnership might be a good fit for RCPP.