

2021 NRCS Sherman County Local Work Group Meeting 2/25/21

Meeting Began: 10:00 a.m.

Presenter: Emily Huth

Resource: PowerPoint slides

Additional Powerpoint Notes:

**2020
WHAT
HAVE WE
BEEN
DOING?**

- EQIP Completed Practices:**
- Brush Management (Juniper) – 10 ac.
- Water Troughs and Cisterns – 2 troughs, 2 cisterns
- Livestock Pipeline – Over 3,000 feet
- Grazing Deferment** – over 2,000 acres
- Fence** – over 50,000 feet
- EQIP-Reg: 2 approved new contracts**
- CSP: 8 approved new contracts, 6 2021 Renewals**



PINE HOLLOW/JACKKNIFE WATERSHED RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT FUNDING THROUGH 2023

Pine Hollow/Jackknife Watershed rangeland health and wildlife habitat is decreasing due to Western Juniper encroachment, lack of rangeland management and the resulting reduction in wildlife habitat components (i.e. water, food and shelter). This strategy aims to improve plant health in this area to support productive rangelands.

- Conservation Practices Offered**
- Brush Management
 - Fence
 - Spring Development
 - Watering Facility
 - Pipeline
 - Prescribed Grazing



- Hope to submit new CIS by April for funding in 2022
 - Interested in supporting monarchs/beneficial insects now that the Monarch may be listed as a threatened or endangered species; what can we do in the future?
- *Please email Emily Huth (Emily.huth@usda.gov) for enhancement ideas or other feedback*

LOWER DESCHUTES WILDFIRE RESTORATION AND PREVENTION

The goal of this project is to assist landowners within the Lower Deschutes Management Area in maintaining initial fire restoration efforts after the 2018 wildfires in Sherman County through additional treatments and conservation work. It will also provide an opportunity for landowners to implement wildfire prevention conservation practices.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Potential Practices | 516: Livestock Pipeline |
| 314: Brush Management | 528: Prescribed Grazing |
| 315: Herbaceous Weed Treatment | 533: Pumping Plant |
| 342: Critical Area Planting | 550: Range Planting |
| 382: Fence | 560: Access Road |
| 383: Fuel Break | 561: Heavy Use Area Protection |
| 394: Firebreak | 574: Spring Development |
| 420: Wildlife Habitat Planting | 490: Tree/Shrub Site Prep |
| | 612: Tree/Shrub Establishment |
| | 614: Watering Facility |
| | And many more... |

This project area is planned to overlap with the SWCD's Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) boundary and conservation needs.

Discussion:

Local producer and SWCD board member

- Commented that he would like to see funding for Weed-It technology and weed resistance to chemicals is increasing. He also mentioned that he appreciates the effort toward juniper removal in the county.

Stephanie Payne (Small Farms & Organic Specialist) (stephanie.payne@usda.gov)

- Works with small farms and organic producers, can provide financial and technical assistance
- Main programs:

- High Tunnel Initiative:
(<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/programs/financial/equip/?cid=nrcseprd398832>)
 - Unheated greenhouse mainly used to extend the growing season.
At least 6 feet tall in middle
 - Cost-share
 - for the high tunnel. Does not fund heating, ventilation of irrigation
 - for supporting practices like mulching and cover crops
 - Similar deadlines to EQIP
- Organic producers:
 - open to organic and transitioning to organic producers
 - similar deadlines to EQIP
- Deadline: April 16th (if receive more funding)

- Developing CIS: multi-county (9 counties) to help contribute to local food and food insecurity. Currently picking priority areas

- Quick survey for producers <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/899X3RL>

Amanda Whitman (SWCD Manager)

- ODFW SAI is moving along and they hope to come out next month for field visit

- in process of hiring a new watershed coordinator

FSA Update

- **Has been extended indefinitely (Was Feb. 12th)**
 - General CRP sign-up deadline
- **March 1-July 15**
 - Primary Nesting Season
- **March 15-April 23 (tentative)**
 - CRP Grasslands sign-up period
- **March 15**
 - ARC/PLC enrollment and election for 2021
- **July 15**
 - Acreage reporting deadline



Dan Son (Weed District):

- good season of noxious weed control-> can provide data and hotspots

- hiring 2 seasonal for Deschutes CWMA, March 15th-November

- wants to increase outreach and education

- looking into new funding

Jacob Powell (OSU extension):

- how to maintain already purchased precision machines (EQIP funding?)
- Create Weed-IT opportunities
 - o create funding (EQIP?)-> NRCS is looking in to
 - o cooperative ownership (Morrow County has) between NRCS and SWCD and then is rented out to producers
- OSU research
 - o post harvest weed control-> pulverize chaff to destroy weed seeds
- Pollinator habitat-> we should figure out what varieties work here
- create a watershed fire resource inventory Avenza map (Gilliam County has)
- increase cost-share for water development to service both livestock and fire capacity-> NRCS has funding for cisterns

Meeting Adjourned: 11:00 a.m.