

NRCS ANNUAL DOUGLAS COUNTY ANNUAL LOCAL WORKING GROUP

David Ferguson, District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Meeting notes:

Meeting held in conjunction with Umpqua SWCD monthly board meeting, via go-to meeting. Presentation slides were used to assist in discussion.

- 1. USDA/NRCS and the Farm Bill updates** – David Ferguson presented brief history of NRCS, Oregon NRCS and local Douglas County NRCS. Then followed up with general explanation of ongoing programs administered by NRCS.
- 2. Ongoing activities in Douglas County** - David explained ongoing programs in Douglas County, EQIP, CStP, easements, Two Chiefs project. Explained that most of current workload is dealing with wildfire/forestry issues. This upland resource concern does have a great impact on wildlife, watershed water supply, quality, terrestrial habitat, etc.
- 3. How planning and project development occurs with NRCS in Oregon** - The CIS process was explained as Oregon NRCS requires to obtain EQIP funding. Examples were provided and past input from earlier conversations and meetings were discussed.
- 4. Planned activities and projects in Douglas County** – Ongoing forestry and pasture projects will continue, more CSP will likely increase over time for office workload addressing pasture and forest land uses. RCPP would be pursued to expand funding capability for project areas.
- 5. Participant feedback** - RCPP should be pursued for oak conservation project areas, such as the Oakland CIS currently being implemented (FWS comment); Soil quality should be addressed or considered with everything NRCS does (SWCD consultant); Lower Smith River/Umpqua estuary and tide gates a priority for that area (SWCD comment); Some wording should be adjusted with list of resource concerns identified in the past to reflect current thought (FWS).

SWCD board chair closed meeting.