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Grant County Local Work Group Meeting - 2021

Aaron Roth – District Conservationist | January 2021

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Meeting Agenda

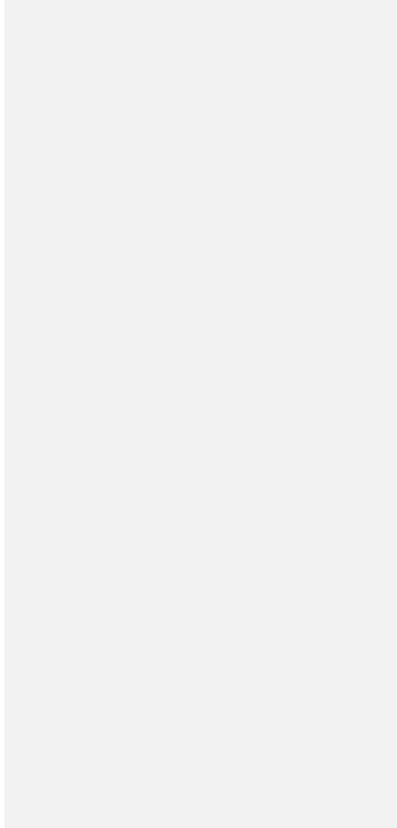


- **Welcome and Local Work Group Meeting Overview**
- **New NRCS Staff**
- **FSA CREP 2020 Summary**
- **Review 2020 EQIP/RCPP/CSP Contracts**
- **Review 2021 Conservation Implementation Strategies**
- **2021 Drought Outlook**
- **Emerging Technology**
- **Grant County Demographics**
- **Website Resources / 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

541-575-0135 ext. 113 aaron.roth@usda.gov

Hannah Mears – Soil Conservationist

541-575-0135 ext. 104 hannah.mears@usda.gov

Stephanie Moothart – Soil Conservationist

541-574-0135 ext. 114 stephanie.moothart@usda.gov

Tereasa Perkins – Soil Conservationist Technician

541-575-0135 ext. 106 teresa.perkins@usda.gov

Mathew Brown – ODF – Field Forester

541-575-1139 matthew.t.brown@oregon.gov

Austin Reimer – ODF - AFF Forester

541-575-1139 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

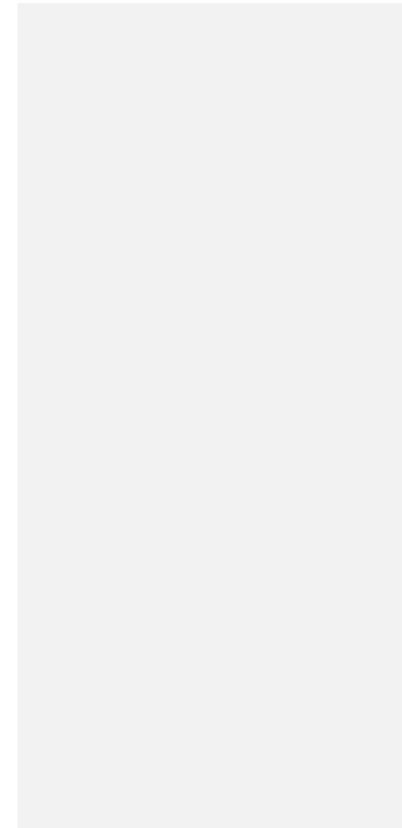
- **One Mid-management plan was designed and implemented in 2020**
- **Eight applications were received and seven went to contract in 2020**
- **Three contracts expired in 2020 and only one project was renewed.**



Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) 2020 Summary

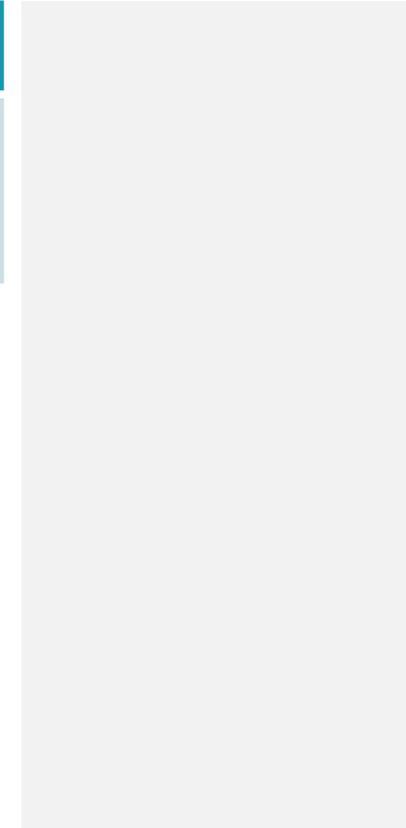


Funding Pool	# of Contracts	\$ Obligated	Acres of Treatment
JDU Basin Forest Resiliency	2	\$168,950	244 acres



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



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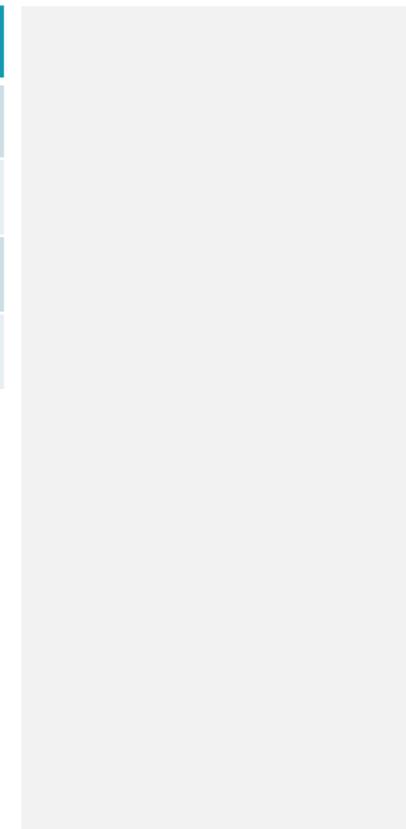
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Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) 2020 Summary

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
Total	15	\$1,808,140	48,626

- 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

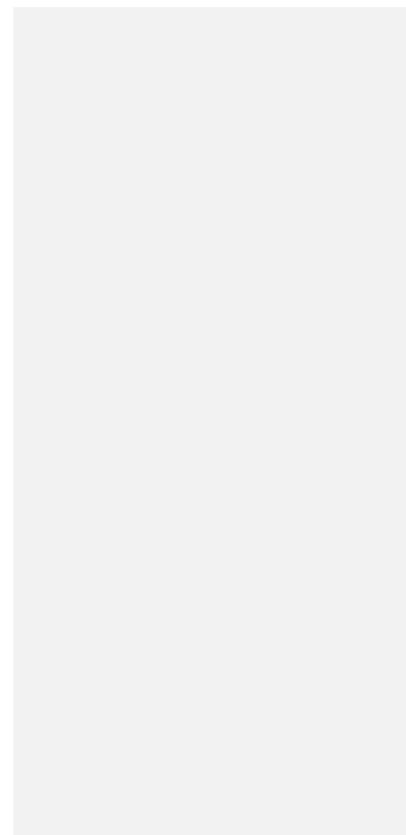
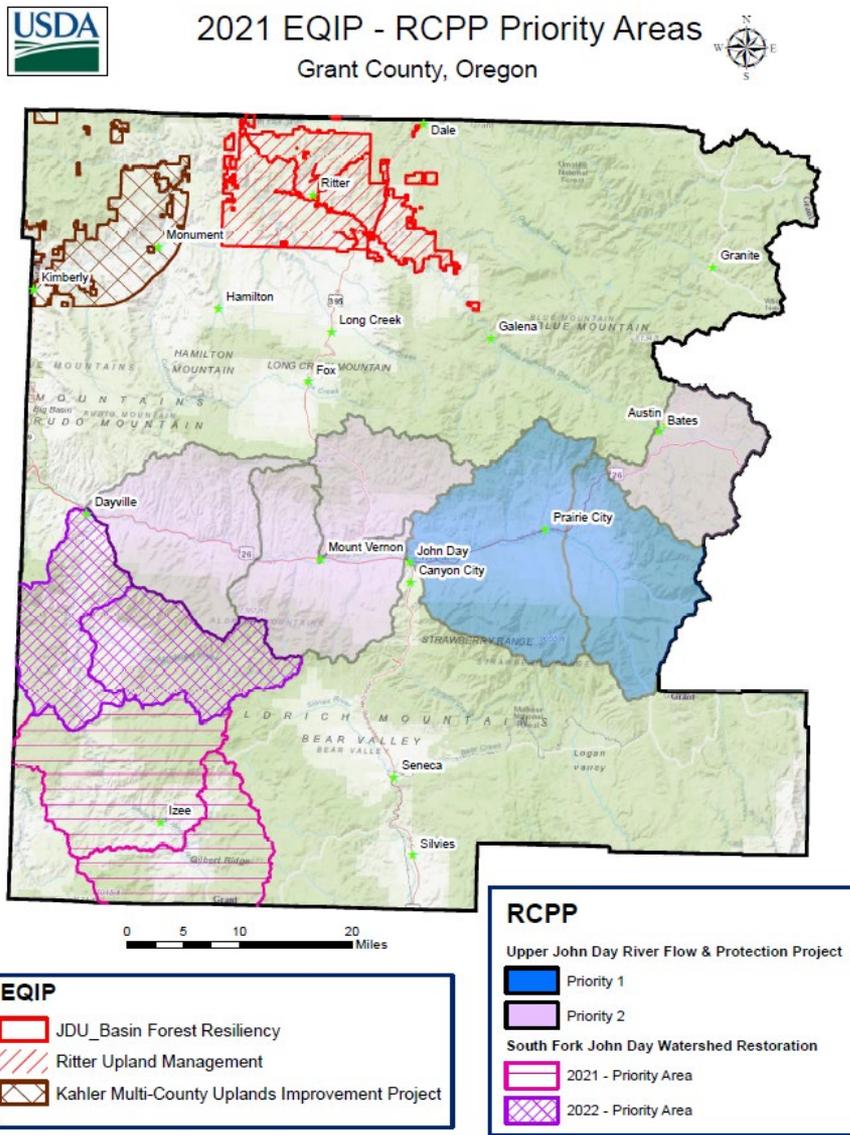
➤ **Deadline for Applications is April 16th 2021**



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2021 Grant County Funding Priority Map



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CSP



- **CSP Renewals 2021**

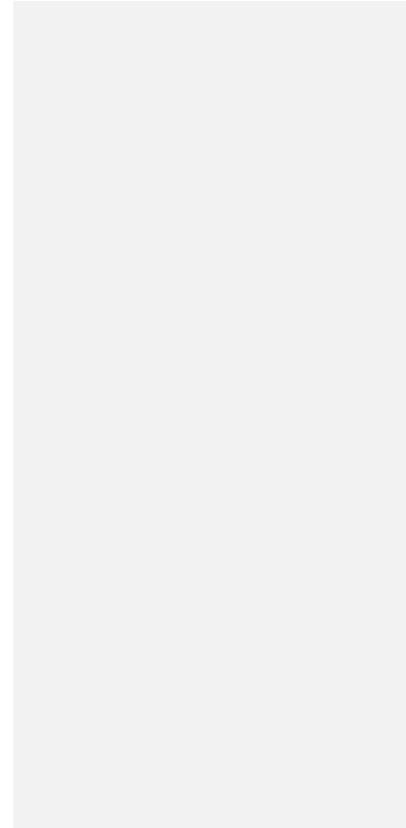
- Application and ranking was completed in fall of 2020.
- 6 applications were selected for funding.
- Contacts will be obligated in February 2021.

- **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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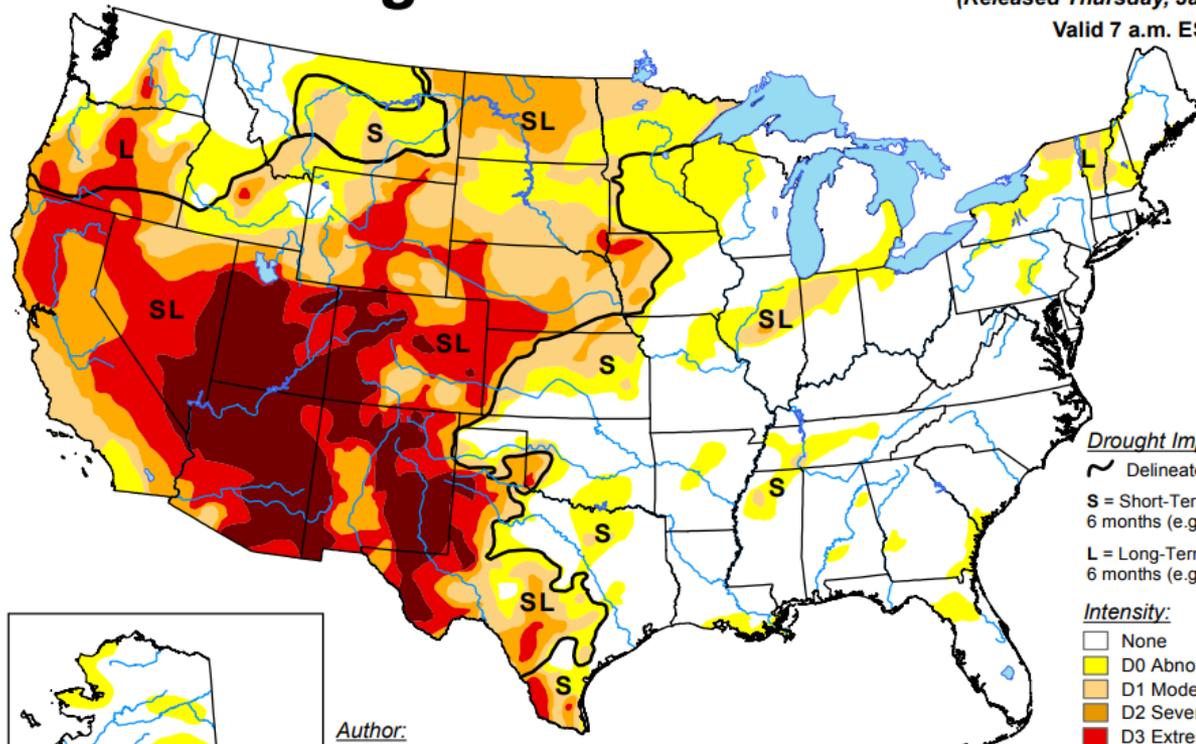


2021 Drought Outlook



U.S. Drought Monitor

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

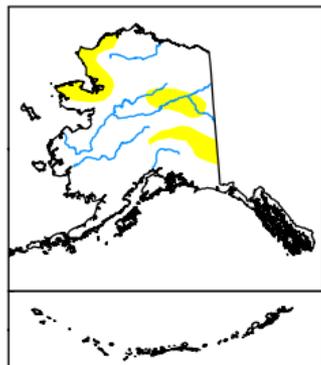


Drought Impact Types:

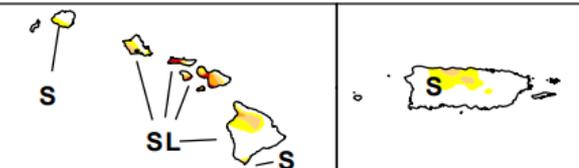
- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

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>

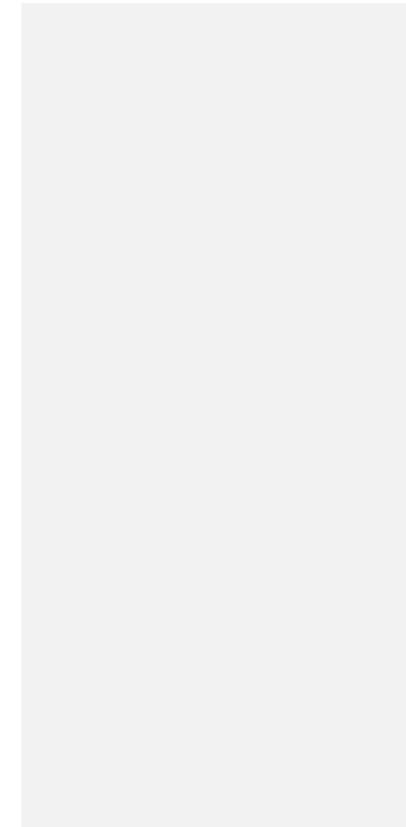
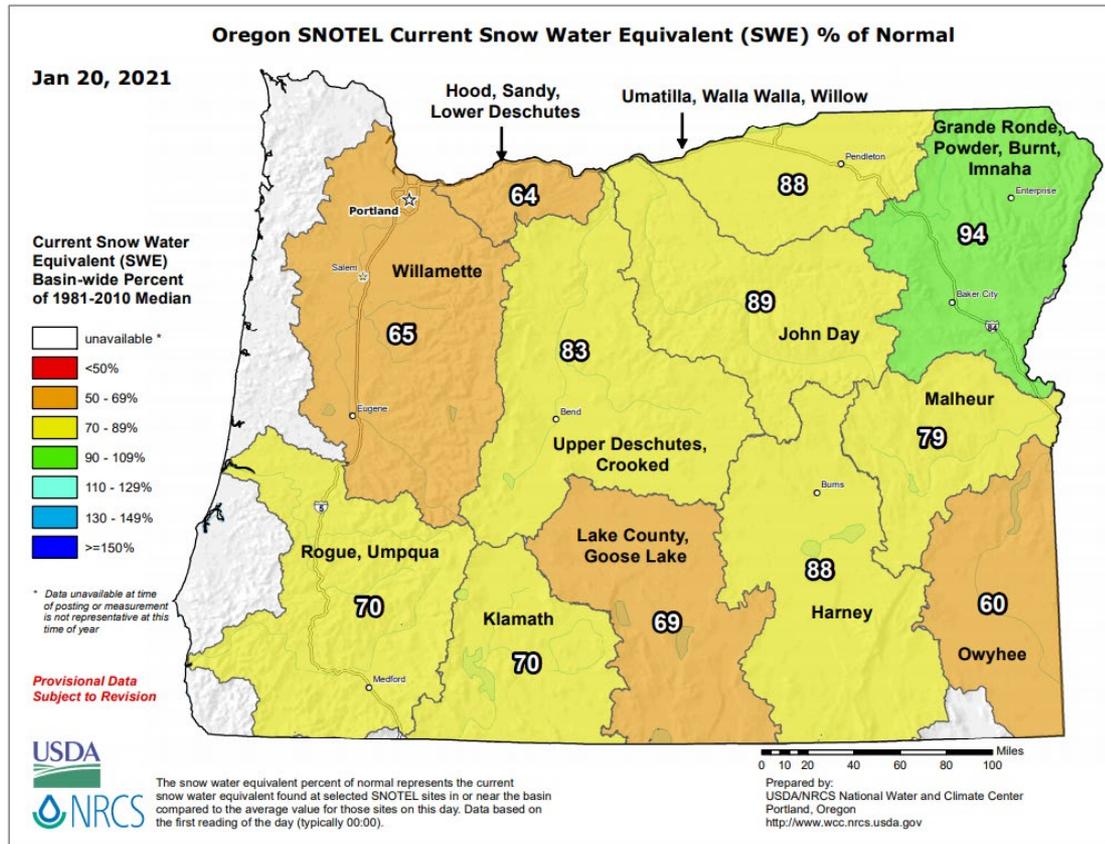


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

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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

INDAZIFLAM | GROUP 28 | HERBICIDE



Suspension Concentrate
 Preemergent Herbicide for the restoration and protection of Rangeland, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands, Natural Areas e.g., Parks and Open Space, Wildlife Management Areas, Recreational Areas, Fire Rehabilitation Areas, Prisons and Fire Breaks and including any of these sites that are grazed or out for grass hay

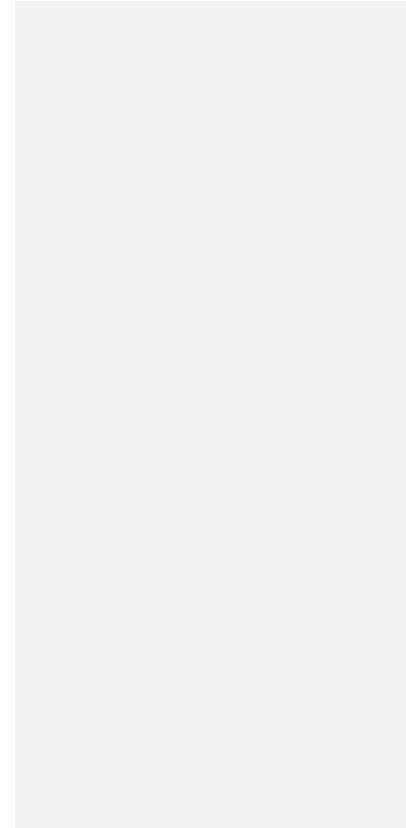
ACTIVE INGREDIENT:	
Indaziflam (CAS No. 725073-19-2)	19.05%
OTHER INGREDIENTS:	80.95%
TOTAL:	100.00%

EPA Reg. No. 422-1609
 Contains 1.67 pounds of indaziflam per gallon

**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN
 CAUTION**

For **MEDICAL** and **TRANSPORTATION** Emergencies **ONLY** Call 24 Hours a Day 1-800-334-7577
 For **PRODUCT USE** Information Call 1-800-351-2967

See Back Panel for First Aid Instructions and Booklet for Complete Precautionary Statements and Directions for Use



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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)
Total (\$)		
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
Per farm average (\$)		
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 (%) ^a

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 ^a
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 ^a
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 ^b	Counties Producing Item	Rank in U.S. ^b	Counties Producing Item
Total	24,129	31	36	2,271	3,077
Crops	3,291	33	36	2,533	3,073
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
Livestock, poultry, and products	20,838	19	36	1,610	3,073
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

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

57%
43%

10%
51%
39%

31%

Percent of farms that:

Have internet access **77**

Farm organically **1**

Sell directly to consumers **10**

Hire farm labor **23**

Are family farms **99**

Top Crops in Acres^d

Forage (hay/haylage), all	36,656
Wheat for grain, all	135
Oats for grain	(D)
Barley for grain	(D)
Cherries, sweet	(D)

Livestock Inventory (Dec 31, 2017)

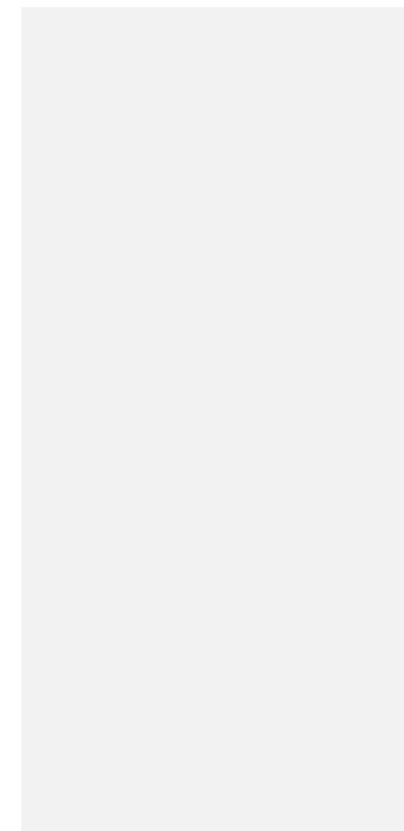
Broilers and other meat-type chickens	194
Cattle and calves	35,213
Goats	(D)
Hogs and pigs	51
Horses and ponies	912
Layers	933
Pullets	104
Sheep and lambs	214
Turkeys	86

See 2017 Census of Agriculture, U.S. Summary and State Data, for complete footnotes, explanations, definitions, commodity descriptions, and methodology.

^a May not add to 100% due to rounding. ^b Among counties whose rank can be displayed. ^c Data collected for a maximum of four producers per farm.

^d Crop commodity names may be shortened; see full names at 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



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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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. Crop/Pasture: Tues. Feb. 16, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Range: Wed. Feb. 17, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Forest: Thurs. Feb. 18, 1 to 2 p.m. Zoom Meeting Link: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608339836 Forestry: Thurs. Feb 18, 1 to 2 p.m.	Aaron Roth District Conservationist 541-575-1274 Ext 113
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 Meeting ID: 161 652 0722 Passcode: 585622 One tap mobile +16692545252,,1616520722# US (San Jose) +16468287666,,1616520722# US (New York)	Damon Brosnan District Conservationist 541-384-2671 Ext 107

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OR NRCS – Interactive Map



Oregon's Strategic Approach to Conservation

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

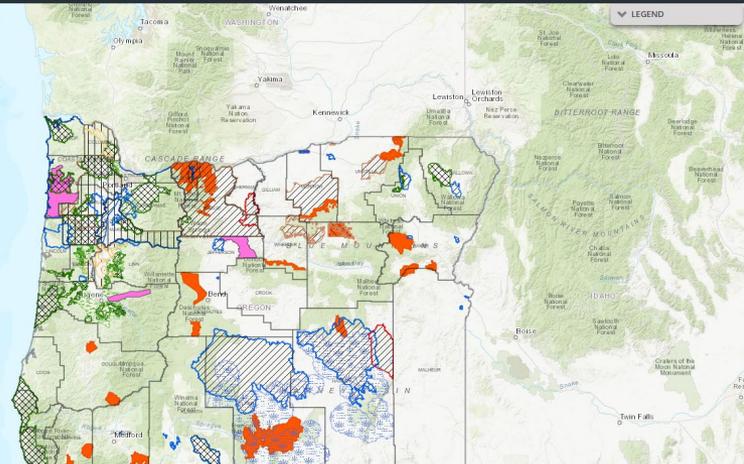


OREGON'S STRATEGIC APPROACH TO CONSERVATION

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



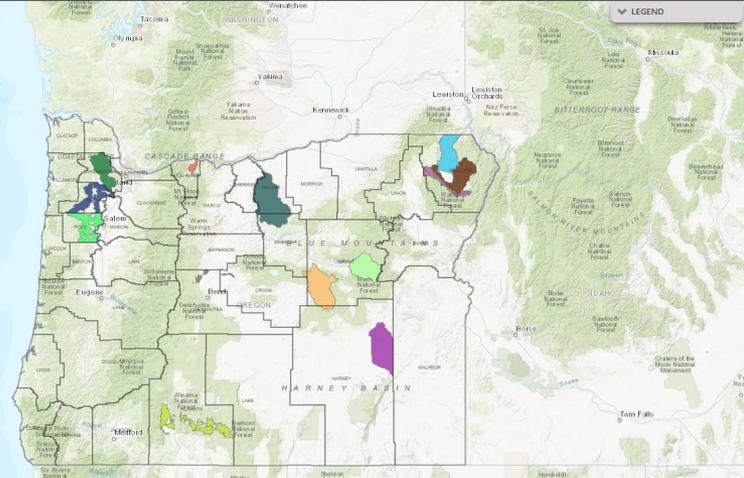
RCPP
REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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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Grant County NRCS Webpage



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



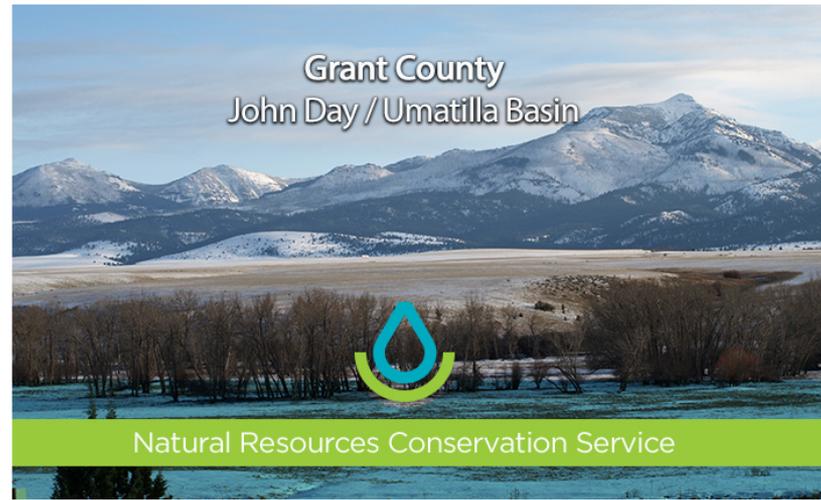
THINKING ABOUT WORKING WITH NRCS?

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



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Farmers.gov



An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know.](#)

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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

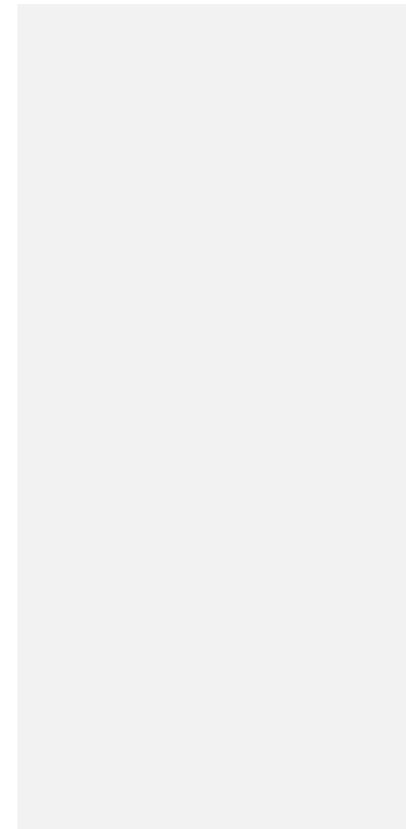


New or Renewal RCPP
Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration
Partnership
New CIS development?

New or Renewal RCPP
Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration
Partnership
New CIS development?



New or Renewal RCPP
Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration
Partnership
New CIS development?



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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 16th from 1 – 2 pm

Rangeland

Wednesday February 17th from 1 – 2 pm

Forestland

Thursday February 18th from 1 – 2 pm



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Cropland & Pasture Listening Session
Call in number: 1-669-254-5252
Meeting Room # 160 596 5982



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**
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- **Review of County Priority Resource Concerns**
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 - Current CIS's
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Current Local Work Group Meeting Schedule

Fiscal Year 2021 Local Work Group Schedule

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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

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John Day Field Office Staff

Aaron Roth - District Conservationist

541-575-0135 ext. 113 aaron.roth@usda.gov

Hannah Mears – Soil Conservationist

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Farm Service Agency Updates

Harney-Grant County combination – effective January 1, 2021

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- 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)
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- Deadline for NAP Insurance producers is April 15th
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- 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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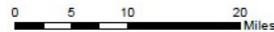
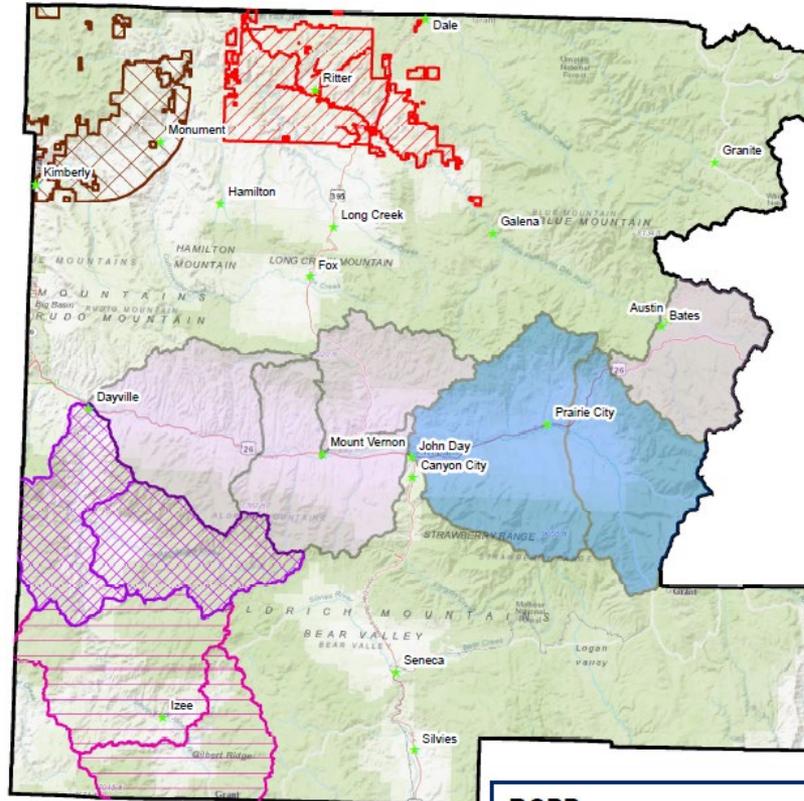
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2021 Grant County Funding Priority Map



2021 EQIP - RCPP Priority Areas Grant County, Oregon

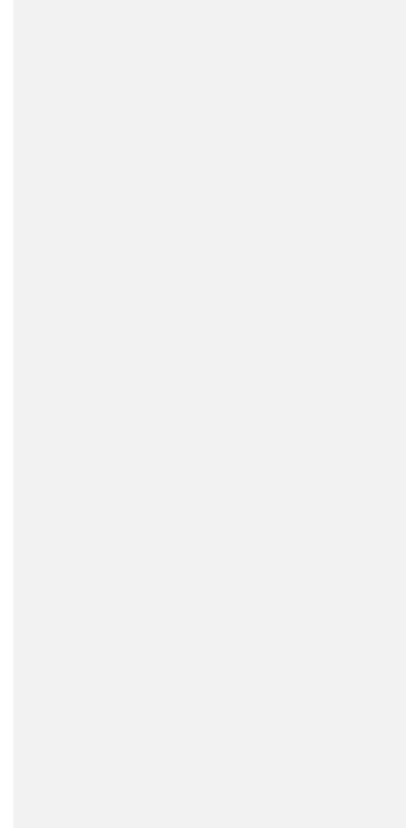


EQIP

- 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



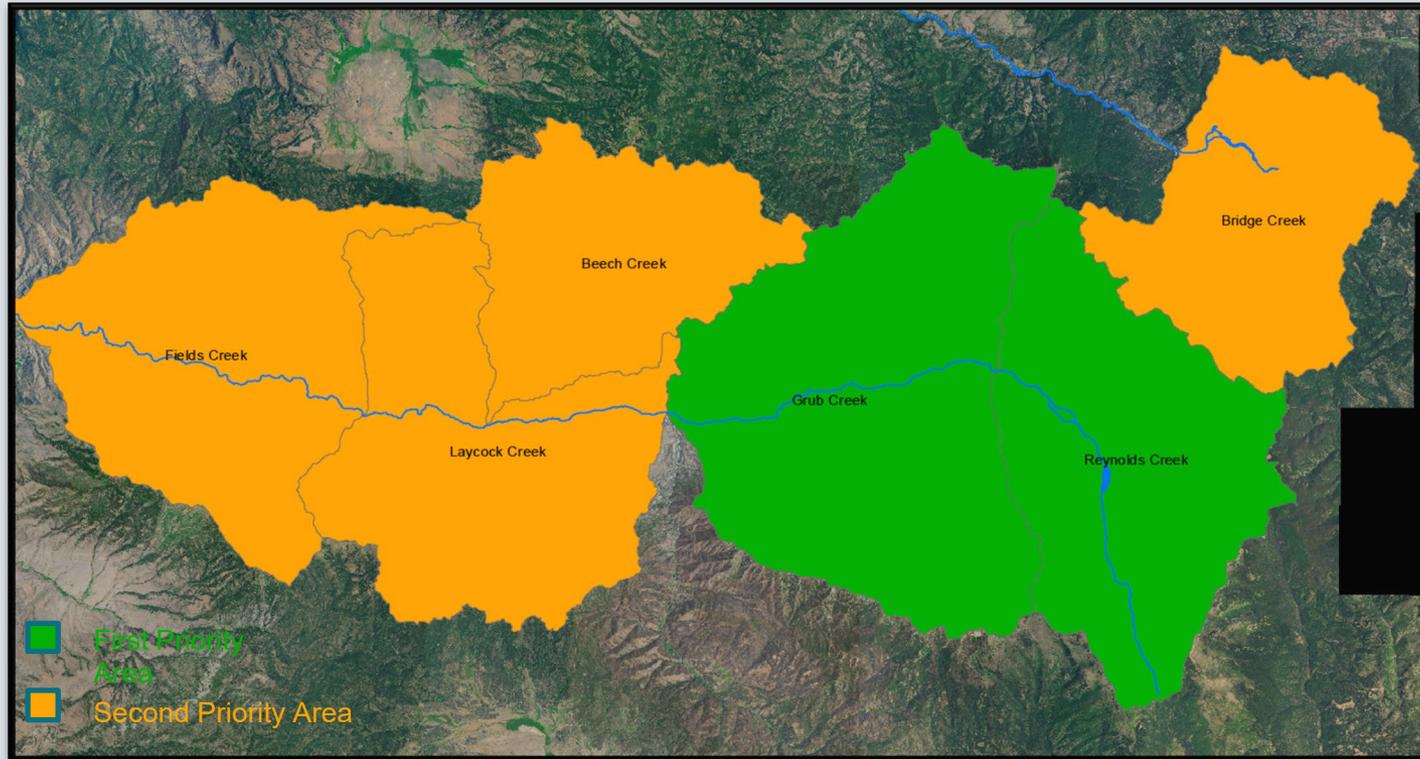
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Upper John Day River Flow and Protection Project

Confederated Tribes Of Warm Springs and Natural Resources Conservation Services



NRCS- EQIP

Financial assistance is available for private landowners within the RCPP project boundary that would like to implement irrigation efficiency projects, stock water projects, irrigation water management project and more.

Irrigation efficiency projects will include all conservation practices needed for the specific property and approved by the individual private landowner. EQIP and partner dollars will combine to maximize restoration work for each of these projects.

ACEP-ALE

- ACEP-ALE money will be used to help acquire working lands conservation easements that will help restore, protect, and enhance important lands to improve overall watershed health and protect agricultural viability. Working lands conservation easements will be established on private lands to protect critical habitat for fish and wildlife in perpetuity, while also protecting strong riparian communities that can keep the watershed functioning at a desirable level to meet the demands of agricultural production and water users
- By entering into a conservation easement on your private lands, it ensures that your land will not be subdivided at any point and will be protected in perpetuity. There are additional incentives for landowners such as tax benefits and/or cash payments.

Contact Information

Nicole Lexson
CTWS Restoration project Manager
(541) 777-2838
nicole.lexson@ctwsbnr.org

Aaron Roth
NRCS District Conservationist
(541) 575-0135 x. 113
aaron.roth@usda.gov

Amanda "Marti" Martino (ACEP-ALE)
BMLT Conservation Director
Office: (541) 620-5754
Cell: (248) 635-0946
marti@bmlt.org



NRCS Irrigation Projects Consideration

- **Need to have irrigated the ground 2 of the last 5 years.**
- **Design will be based on water rights which will be verified.**
- **Diversion need to allow fish passage and have a functioning fish screen.**
- **Must be willing to work with other partners and landowners on shared ditches.**
- **NRCS funding is for on farm improvements**



2021 Grant County Funding Opportunities

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- 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

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Local Work Group Listening Session – Cropland Session

Tuesday Feb. 16th

Attendees:

NRCS Staff - Aaron, Hannah, Tereasa	
Jack Southworth –(landowner)	
Jim Kennedy – (landowner)	
Nicole Lexson (CTWS)	
Hannah Latzo (SFJDWC)	
Amy Stiner (SFJDWC)	
Kylie Skidgel (NRCS Moderator)	

Meeting Notes:

Aaron makes introductions, gives purpose for having meeting.

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.

Nicole Lexson gives overview of RCPP and ACEP-ALE for Irrigation and Easements

- Aaron explains some of the NRCS requirements for irrigation related RCPP projects.

Grant County Overview (RCPP, EQIP, CSP)

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

Producer/Partners input – comments- suggestions- questions

1. Jack Southworth: Talks about resource concerns, likes our priority resource concerns.
 - a. Soil Health: tillage, cover, encourages to incorporate more soil health principles
 - b. Would like to see more grazing plans opportunities. Benefit perennial grasses.
 - c. Pasture improvements through interseeding, minimal tillage, introducing diversity.
 - d. Comments for rangeland would be the same.

- e. Asks NRCS staff about thoughts on priorities: Answers include: Annual grasses, Stock water, cross fencing.
 - f. Has question about how CSP funding is allocated throughout the county. Aaron answers (Each State get and allocation, In Oregon it is future broken down into zones)
2. Jim Kennedy:
- a. Annual grasses, carbon sequestration priorities
 - b. Water quality and quantity through juniper work.

-Limited irrigated/pasture ground in the Ritter area

3. Amy Stiner:
- a. With increasing drought, looking at water storage options through reservoirs and more groundwater storage.

Aaron provided a summary of the comments and spoke about the next listening session.

Meeting poll and adjourned the meeting.

Notes taken by Hannah Mears.



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Rangeland Listening Session
Call in number: 1-669-254-5252
Meeting Room # 160 099 7101



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**
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- **New FSA County Executive Director**
- **Review of County Priority Resource Concerns**
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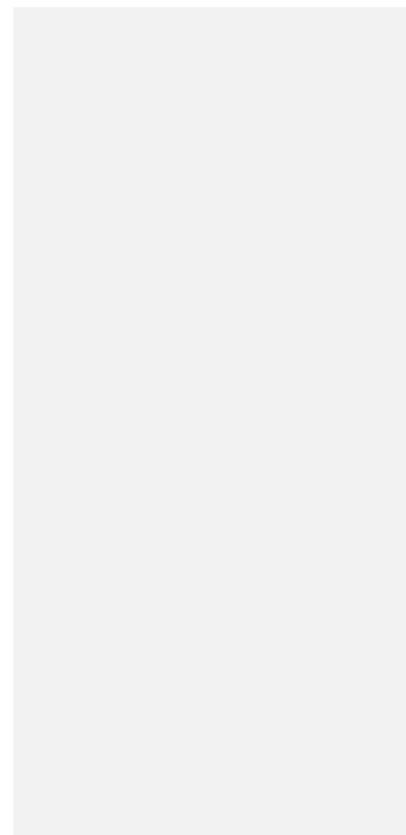
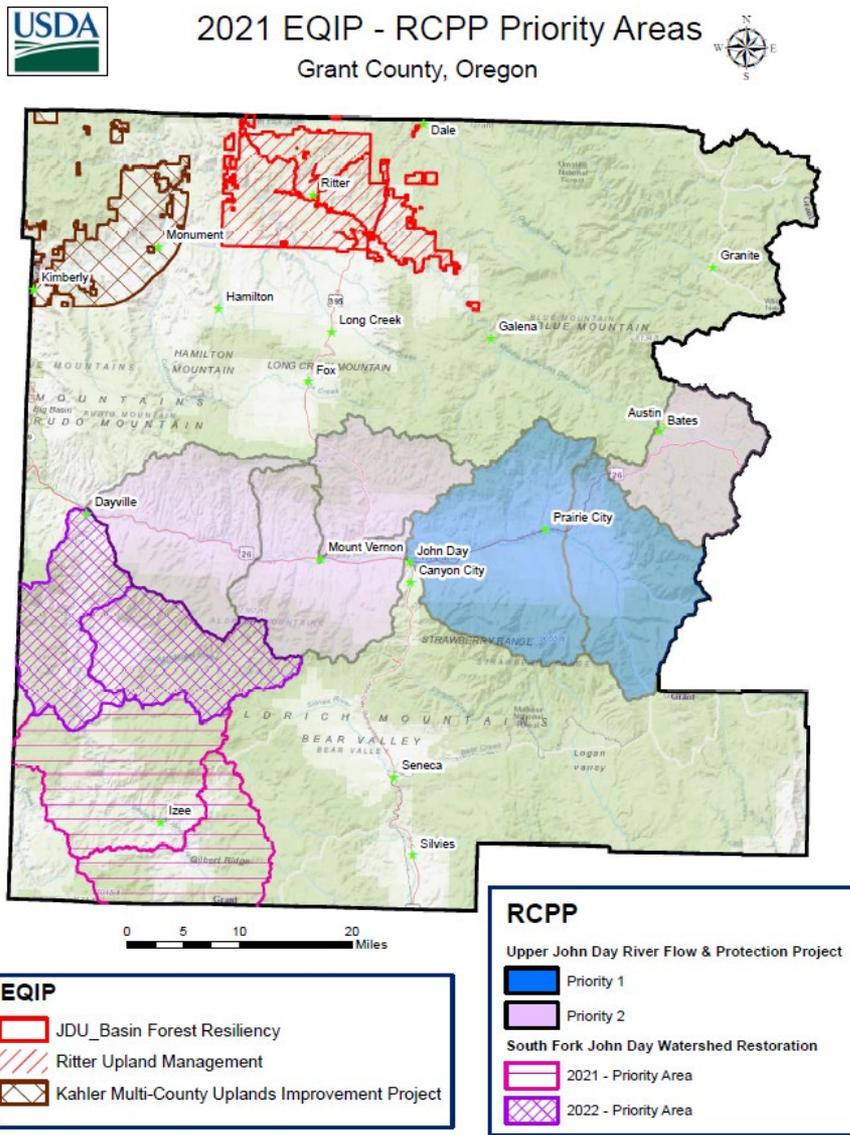
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2021 Grant County Funding Priority Map



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Local Work Group Listening Session – Rangeland

Wednesday Feb. 17th

Participants:

NRCS Staff - Aaron, Hannah, Stephanie, Tereasa	Jim Dovenberg (Landowner)
	Kurt Spencer (Landowner)
Jack Southworth (Landowner)	Matthew McElligott (Landowner)
Shannon Rust (Landowner)	Matt Wenick (Grant SWCD)
Amy Stiner (SFJDWC)	Nicole Lexson (CTWS)
Hannah Latzo (SFJDWC)	Emma Gabriel (FSA)
Carter Crouch (Burns Paiute Tribe)	Richard Nelson (Landowner)
Genevieve Perdue (BMLT)	
Jeffrey Kee (Landowner)	

Meeting Notes:

Aaron makes introductions, gives purpose for having meeting.

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)

- Amy Stiner discussed the South Fork John Day Watershed Council RCPP project.
 - Southfork boundaries, service area
 - Applied for RCPP in 2019, awarded in 2020.
 - Divided project area into two different areas (Upper and Lower watersheds, see map).
 - Upper: 2021 funding
 - Lower: 2022 funding
 - Open both areas in 2023 for funding
- Funding Opportunities throughout the county: EQIP: Kahler, Ritter. RCPP: Southfork, CTWS Irrigation & ALE.
- State Initiative availability.
- Deadlines

Producer/Partners input – comments- suggestions- questions

1. Jack Southworth:
 - a. Grazing management, annual grasses. Talked about Tony Malmberg providing prescribed grazing school or education opportunities for producers in the county.
2. Shannon Rust:
 - a. Annual grass concerns
3. Jeffrey Kee:
 - a. Challenged with using timber ground for economic benefit. Cooperative partnership availability from NRCS? From range side, CRP? Aaron mentions CRP grasslands, if interested, get ahold of FSA.
 - b. Are BDA's a practice NRCS can do? Aaron mentions that it is a practice NRCS has added but permitting can be a challenge. Other counties have partners willing to help with permitting, might this be an option in Grant County?
 - c. Can NRCS push Forest Service to prioritize areas? Hard to do with so much area, different forests, NEPA is already done for other areas, could take years. Also, landowner interest helps.
 - d. Water quality/quantity. Diverting water, storage.
 - e. Ways to use juniper for landowner cost benefit, mill it, biochar etc. Aaron mentions other partners for that type of research. CIG
 - f. OWRD, water rights. Allocation of Conserved Water Program. Suggest that NRCS discuss these programs with producers'
4. Jim Dovenberg:
 - a. Forest health and annual grasses. Would like to see more funding opportunities in his area.
5. Kurt Spencer:
 - a. Have seen huge improvements from NRCS funding
 - b. Energy, solar. Good opportunities, but not cost effective around here. Carbon sequestration?
 - c. Someone to document success stories to show other people what kind of work can be done.
6. Matt McElligott:
 - a. Fire concerns. Using water storage for fire suppression efforts, not just livestock water.
 - b. Annual grasses, control through grazing management and herbicides

Matt Wenick talks about work that Grant Weed Control has done.

1. New product, Rejuvra and the research coming along with that. Funding opportunities for annual grass treatment.

Emma Gabriel comes on to talk about FSA updates and answers questions:

1. Did interviews for the new technician position. Will be trained in Harney county before moving into Grant full time. Emma will continue to come into Grant County on Tuesdays.

Aaron provided a summary of the comments and spoke about the next listening session.
Adjourned the meeting.

Notes taken by Hannah Mears.



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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 United States Department of Agriculture

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- 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
<p>County Overview to be recorded.</p> <p>Listening Schedules via Zoom. See Location for Zoom links.</p> <p>Crop/Pasture: Tues. Feb. 16, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Range: Wed. Feb. 17, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Forestry: Thurs. Feb 18, 1 to 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Grant County Local Work Group Meeting Agenda</p> <p>Includes information on how to work in a Zoom meeting.</p>	<p>Crop/Pasture: Tues. Feb. 16, 1 to 2 p.m. Zoom Meeting Link: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605965982</p> <p>Meeting ID: 160 596 5982 One tap mobile +16692545252,,1605965982# US (San Jose)</p> <p>Range: Wed. Feb. 17, 1 to 2 p.m. Zoom Meeting Link: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600997101</p> <p>Meeting ID: 160 099 7101 One tap mobile +16692545252,,1600997101# US (San Jose)</p> <p>Forest: Thurs. Feb 18, 1 to 2 p.m. Zoom Meeting Link: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608339836</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>Wed, Feb., 10, 2021 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Wheeler and Gilliam Counties Local Work Group Meeting</p>	<p>Join ZoomGov Meeting https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1616520722?pwd=UzRwcTASyXRIUGdWM29sT2Qxdnh3QT09</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



John Day Field Office Staff

Aaron Roth - District Conservationist

541-575-0135 ext. 113 aaron.roth@usda.gov

Hannah Mears – Soil Conservationist

541-575-0135 ext. 104 hannah.mears@usda.gov

Stephanie Moothart – Soil Conservationist

541-574-0135 ext. 114 stephanie.moothart@usda.gov

Tereasa Perkins – Soil Conservationist Technician

541-575-0135 ext. 106 teresa.perkins@usda.gov

Mathew Brown – ODF – Field Forester

541-575-1139 matthew.t.brown@oregon.gov

Austin Reimer – ODF - AFF Forester

541-575-1139 austin.b.reimer@oregon.gov

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

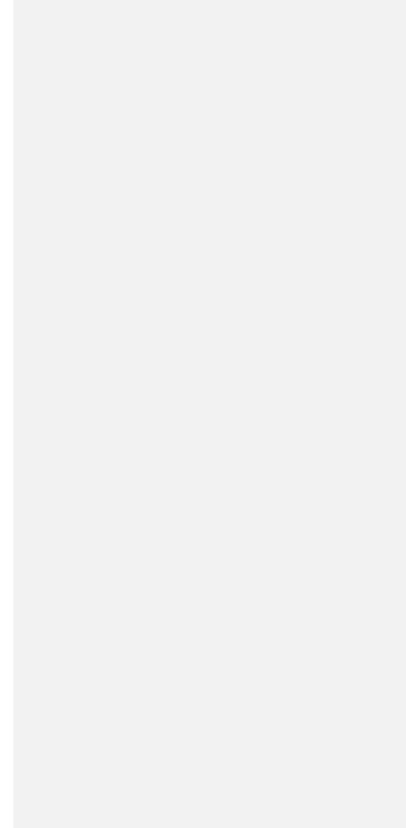


Local Work Group Priorities

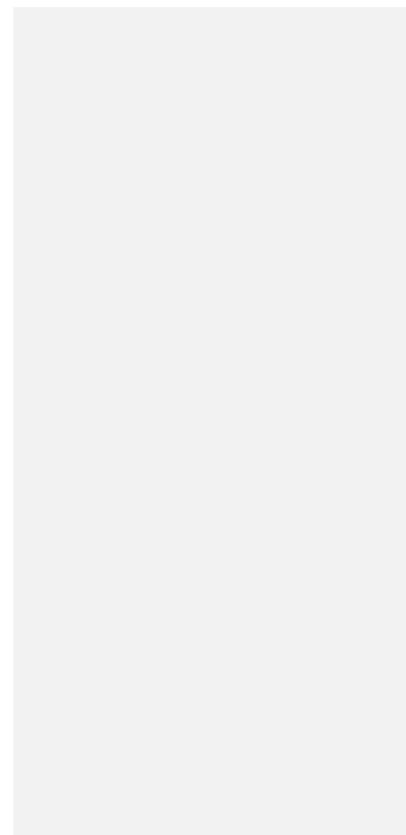
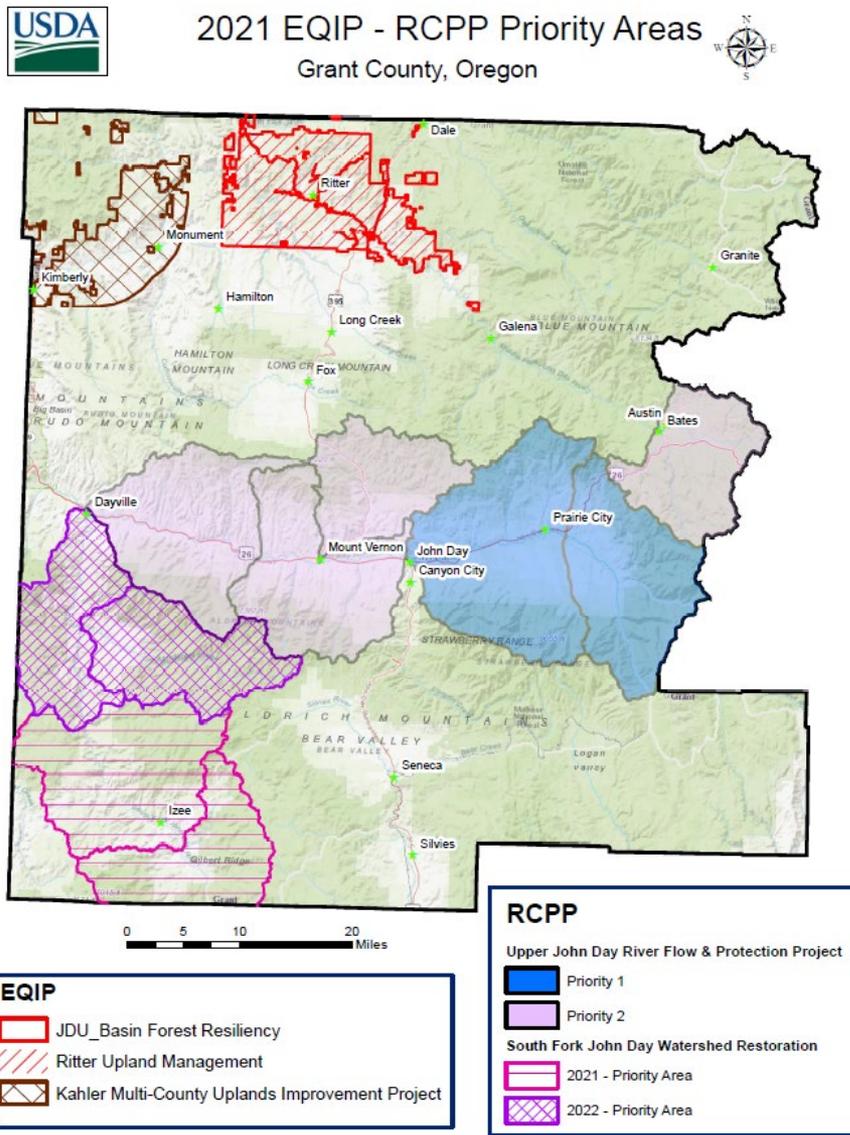


County Priority Resource Concerns

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)



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

541-575-0135 ext. 113 aaron.roth@usda.gov

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541-575-0135 ext. 104 hannah.mears@usda.gov

Stephanie Moothart – Soil Conservationist

541-574-0135 ext. 114 stephanie.moothart@usda.gov

Tereasa Perkins – Soil Conservationist Technician

541-575-0135 ext. 106 tereasa.perkins@usda.gov



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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.