2022 Deschutes County Local Workgroup Meeting
Zoom Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions

Participants:
Erin Kilcullen-DSWCD
Todd Peplin-DSWCD
Ross Huffman-ODF
Ed Keith- Deschutes Co. Forester
Robin Vora-SWCD
Thomas Stokely-OSU Ext.
Leslie Clark- COID/DRC
Stephanie Payne-NRCS
Andrew Myhra – USFS
Brittany Mills
Damon Brosnan
Eric Metzger – ODF
Jenn Eatwell – NRCS
Lisa Windom – JSWCD
Theresa DeBardelaben – ODA
Scott Duggan – OSU
Brad Moore – Energy Trust
David Phipps – NRCS
Lisa Seals – Deschutes River Conservancy
Tom Bennett - DSWCD

Forestry Discussion

Resource Concerns:
Reduce fuels for wildfire and structure damage and destruction.
Plant productivity and health
Possible terrestrial wildlife habitat for mule deer migration

General Comments & Questions:

How can we get more signups for the $1.6 million scheduled this coming fall?
Try geospatial analyses of fire risk, proximity to USFS and other treatment areas, and tax lot information for more targeted outreach.
Taylor NW cross-boundary project in T17R11... are there opportunities to work with smaller landowners adjacent to the Taylor NW/USFS?
Have we used outreach or worked with Firewise and Project Wildfire?
Ed Keith would be willing to give Lars time during their future meetings to do outreach for Joint Chiefs.
Target landowners who are adjacent to Bend Parks and Rec. Shevlin Park, Tillicum Park, and Eastgate Park are all future BPRD and USFS cross boundary projects
Consider proximity to SB762 projects.

Do we want to plan for another Joint Chiefs in 2023?
Deschutes NF does not have a ton of NEPA ready projects. Might be a struggle to find NEPA ready projects adjacent to private landowners.
Upcoming NEPA projects include Green Ridge, and one near Bend. - Likely to be litigated though
Joint Chiefs funding have become far more competitive. OR did not get any new J.C. projects this year. Maybe consider doing an RCPP instead?
Any ideas if the $900K AGI requirements will change with the new Farm Bill?
Might open new projects if that was not the threshold
RCPP projects can get a waiver to the $900K...
Would we need to have a completely new geographic area?
Not necessarily, but needs to be driven by resource concerns
Maybe wait to see the response to this next $1.6 million funding year?

What else warrants NRCS attention?
Senate Bill 762
Greater La Pine area planning
Shanda Land Assets possibly

Updates:
NRCS will be hiring Partner Foresters to help with future Joint Chiefs works loads. Location and numbers TBD

Ed Keith wanted to mention that if Chris or others working with the SGI on in Deschutes County have unfunded projects, the county may be able to help through the Taylor Grazing fund.

Question: If a landowner does not have a Forestry Management Plan exclude them from applying for funds? possibly, a Forestry Management Plan is required before payment. NRCS does have the ability to handle creating a Forestry Management Plan in house or we can work with partners to build/create a plan.
Question: Is there a difference between a landowner with large acreage vs small acreage? > No, but to qualify for funding you can’t be Industrial Forest. In terms of Ranking do houses or structures in closer vicinity to potential fire shed rank higher? > Fire Shed Risk Assessment- 10 ac. vs 20 ac. Rank out the same regardless of home value.
Monitoring & Metrics: Currently there is on-going monitoring can we build on this instead of creating something new? There are many programs in progress as we speak, aquatic restoration, monitoring photo points, road density measures, road and trail recreation areas (If interested reach out for additional programs).
Question: Potential Ranking Question- Additional ranking points for those located in a Fire Wise Neighborhood? > Most Fire Wise Neighborhoods consist of 8+ dwellings in an area of small acres or lots. This may not be efficient for NRCS to meet a level of positive impact. We would need to focus on resource concerns and not types of neighborhoods.
How can we get more signups for the 1.6 million scheduled this next fall?

- Put a checkmark by the ideas you agree with.

- Taylor NW cross-boundary project in T17R11...are there opportunities to work with smaller landowners adjacent to the Taylor NW-USFS?

- Geospatial analyses of fire risk, proximity to USFS and other treatment areas and taxlot information for targeted outreach.

- Consider adjacency to SBT762 projects

- Landowners who are adjacent to Bends Park & Rec if they fall outside of the Urban Boundary. Shevlin Park, Tillicum Park, Eastgate Park are future Bend Parks and Rec USFS cross boundary projects.

Have you worked with Firewise?

Do we want to plan for another Joint Chiefs in 2023?

- Yes
- No
- May be, depends

Benefits of a new JC:
Irrigation Discussion

**Resource Concerns:**
Energy Efficiency (Equipment and Facilities)
Inefficient use of irrigation water

**General Comments & Questions:**
Now that Phase 1 of the DOF-CIS is near completion; do we need to expand the DOF-CIS focus areas for phase 2?
Consensus - Yes. Expand the Smith Rock CIS to more closely match the boundaries of the RCPP. The RCPP used nearly all its funds within the first year on implementation, showing the need for additional funding opportunities.

Participant Question - Does the current CIS encompass many flood irrigators? If not, can we expand the area to directly target flood to sprinkler conversions or can we prioritize flood conversions?
Consensus – yes, we can give ranking points based on the NRCS water saving estimator tool.

Participant Question – Can we focus doing upfront needs assessment with the irrigation districts to see where/when PL-566 projects will be implemented, and then target those areas.
Consensus – yes, we have been and will continue to work closely with the irrigation districts.

General Question - Is there anything different we need to focus on in phase 2 of the DOF-CIS?
Participant recommendation - Considering removing the Tower Ditch and Swalley Irrigation district from phase 2 of the DOF-CIS if it’s not part of big piping projects like PL566.
Participant recommendation – utilize the irrigation districts to do more outreach
Can we focus on districts with more Junior water rights and try to target them?
No because we should focus on Natural Resource Concerns and not base the CIS on water rights.
Catch 22 because those people need the water savings but are also more likely to have their water shut off early. Hard to show the improvements.
How can we seek out those that are willing and able to improve their systems?
Irrigation District outreach can assist with this.

What conservation measurables and outcomes should we target/measure?
Energy Savings- Saved kWh by tying into pressurized systems. The energy trust has an energy calculator that we may be able to use. Connect with Brad Moore about an energy savings calculator.

General feedback:
Ranking Question: Draft Operational Plan-What and Why? Intent is to make sure that NRCS’ investment is in place for an intended purpose. This helps when multiple users share an irrigation ditch-We do not want to create water problems among neighbors. The Draft Operational Plan is an agreement making sure all ditch users are on board with improvements others are utilizing.

Fresh Water Trust comment - “The Basin Scout Tool is used for water quality and has not been built out for water quantity”.
Public concerns focus on mortality of trees (Ponderosa pines) along private laterals. Is NRCS including anything to address this issue? > The irrigation districts have jurisdiction along these ditches. Yes, there are some avenues to mitigate for mortality, but some trees lie in a target zone with no other options. This concern is evaluated through the PL-566 planning process and NEPA process.

Instream water returns- DOF-CIS does not necessarily require water to go back to instream.
Opportunity for an alignment between NRCS and DRC- RCPP partnership for irrigation efficiency. DRC currently has a project area north of Deschutes On-Farm CIS around Smith Rock J & L laterals. Helping to get water back in stream. Many available grants to help with collaboration.

SWCD Irrigation Field Days-Ways to display research, watering approaches and upgraded sprinkler system technology. Converting MESA to LESA or Drip is displaying increased efficiencies in water savings and application rates and methods. Will keep us posted with Field Days schedules for Jefferson and Deschutes counties.
Q1. Do we need to expand the DOF-CIS focus areas for phase 2?

Do the current focal areas encompass many flood irrigators? If not, can we expand the areas to directly target flood to sprinkler conversions? Outreach vs expansion?

Q2. Is there anything different that we need to focus on in the phase 2 effort?

Seeking those that are willing and able to improve

Q3. What Conservation Measurables and Outcomes should we target/measure?

Energy savings, Kwh

Add IWM to contracts
LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETING

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 your county.

You are invited to:

✓ Review performance of the past year’s projects.
✓ Help shape plans and prioritize future projects.
✓ Connect with partners and new audiences to seek opportunities to leverage partnership funds.
✓ Learn about other NRCS programs which may prove beneficial to you.

WHERE: Zoom Virtual Meeting

DATE: Tuesday February 22nd, 2022

TIME: 1:00pm - 2:00pm (Forestry Focus)
      2:00pm - 3:00pm (Irrigation Focus)

For more information contact:
Lars Santana - District Conservationist
541-699-3194
Lars.Santana@usda.gov
Subject: Deschutes County Local Work Group Meeting
Where: Zoom Virtual Meeting
https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1601908315?pwd=US9QZUJoWXRidjFQN215TmUrY2plUT09
Call in information:
+1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)
+1 551 285 1373 US
Meeting ID: 160 190 8315
Passcode: 162760
When: Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022 1:00pm – 3:00pm
1:00pm – 2:00pm (Forestry Focus)
2:00pm – 3:00pm (Irrigation Focus)

As a leader in Deschutes County, you are likely familiar with the challenges and opportunities surrounding collaborative natural resource planning and problem solving. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is hosting a Local Work Group Meeting to gather community input regarding natural resource opportunities and priorities across the county.

Our goal is to bring together individuals with a variety of expertise and knowledge, allowing NRCS and others to build on our collective successes while focusing our efforts to make the greatest impact using our available staff and funding.

We need your help to:
- 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 your vision for what the county will look like when these natural resource concerns have been addressed.

In addition to prioritizing identified problems, we will strategize potential solutions and measurable outcomes. The information you provide will be used to develop a Long-Range Strategy to guide NRCS conservation efforts and funding in Deschutes County over the next five to ten years. Your input is very valuable and will help all of us work towards a stronger, healthier, and more economically viable community and agricultural industry.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, but would like additional information or would like to provide your input, please contact Lars Santana, District Conservationist via phone at (541)699-3194 or e-mail at Lars.Santana@usda.gov

This meeting is open to the public, so please feel free to share this information with others who may be interested in participating. Thank you in advance for your time and participation in this very important process.

Sincerely,
Lars Santana
District Conservationist
USDA-NRCS
Deschutes County NRCS Local Work Group
Strategic Planning Meeting
February 22nd 2022
Zoom Virtual Meeting Agenda
https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1601908315?pwd=US9QZUJoWXRidjFQNaN21STmUrYzplUT09

Forestry Focus
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
• Welcome and Introductions – Lars Santana, District Conservationist NRCS
  The Local Working Group Process
  NRCS Conservation - Farm Bill Programs Overview
• Review performance of past year’s forestry conservation efforts
  Restoration of Fire Resilient Landscapes in Deschutes County CIS
  Joint Chiefs - Central Oregon Buttes to Basins All Lands Forest Resiliency Project
  Presented in partnership with:
  Deschutes County Soil and Water Conservation District
• Planning session
  Forestry Priority Resource Concerns
  Forestry Priority Areas
  Forestry Conservation Measurables and Outcomes
• Other USDA Conservation Efforts
  High Tunnel Initiative, Organic Initiative, and more..

Irrigation Focus
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
• Welcome and Introductions – Lars Santana, District Conservationist NRCS
  Review the Local Working Group Process
  NRCS Conservation - Farm Bill Programs Overview
• Review performance of past year’s irrigation related conservation efforts
  Deschutes County On-farm Irrigation and Energy Efficiency CIS
  Presented in partnership with:
  Deschutes County Soil and Water Conservation District
• Planning session
  Irrigation Priority Resource Concerns
  Irrigation Priority Areas
  Irrigation Conservation Measurables and Outcomes
• Other USDA Conservation Efforts
  High Tunnel Initiative, Organic Initiative, and more..

PL-566 information note: The Deschutes County Local Working Group process is a separate planning process than the PL-566 planning process. NRCS manages the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (also known as Public Law 83-566 or PL-566), authorized by Congress in 1954. The purpose of this program is to provide technical and financial assistance to public entities for planning and implementing authorized projects that protect watersheds, mitigate floods, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, create opportunities for hydroelectric power production. The Central Oregon Irrigation Modernization Project includes multiple irrigation districts in Central Oregon in partnership with the Deschutes Basin Board of Control and the Farmers Conservation Alliance. Project website: www.oregonwatershedplans.org
Welcome to the Deschutes County Local Workgroup Meeting
We will get started soon

Redmond Service Center
- Deschutes County
- Jefferson County
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Lars Santana - District Conservationist
Jenn Eatwell – Soil Conservationist
David Phipps – Soil Conservationist
Garrett Duyck – Soil Conservationist – CTWS
Introductions

We invite you to share:
1. Your Name
2. Your affiliation/role/area of interest
3. Why this meeting is important to you
Hydrologic Restoration for Steelhead CIS
Restoration of Fire Resilient Landscapes CIS
Workflow Screening

- The planned project area is within the Bend/Sisters implementation focal project area and has an existing forest management plan developed by Oregon Department of Forestry or similar. Yes = High
- The planned project is within the Bend/Sisters implementation focal project area and within 1 mile of existing forestry treatment areas. Yes = High
- The planned project is within the Bend/Sisters implementation focal project area and greater than 1 mile of existing forestry treatment areas. Yes = Medium
- The application is for a forest management plan (CAPS 106) within the implementation or outreach focal project area. Yes = Medium
- The application is outside of the focal project areas. Yes = Low

Workflow priority based on the lowest screening answer.

Ranking

- The application screens high 10 points
- There is an approved forest management plan that has been developed for the property within the past 10 years. 60 points
- There is an approved forest management plan that has been developed for the property greater than 10 years ago. 50 points
- The project area is clearly identified in an existing forest management plan. 30 points
- The application is to assist with the development of a forest management plan. 10 points
- The application project area is within the wildland urban interface area. 20 points
- The proposed action includes forest stand improvement and slash treatment. 20 points
- The proposed project is adjacent (<500 feet) to a forest stand improvement project completed in the past 10 years. 40 points

- Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Very High 20 points
- Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is High 15 points
- Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Moderate 10 points
- Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Low 7 points
- Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Low Benefit or Benefit 5 points
Joint Chiefs - Buttes to Basins – All Lands Forest Resiliency
# Joint Chiefs

## Funds Obligated To Date

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY21</th>
<th>FY20 (If Applicable)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRCS - EQIP Financial &amp; Technical Assistance</td>
<td>$343,384 FA &amp; $30,904 TA</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRCS - Additional Funds</td>
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<td>FS - National Forest System</td>
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<td>FS - Hazardous Fuels</td>
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<td>FS - State and Private Forestry</td>
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<td>Other (partner investments) Deschutes SWCD</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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For EQIP TA, assume TA at a rate of 9% of FA, across years, unless additional funding was invested (e.g., through partner agreements).

* $125,000 for mastication contract on Sisters RD, funded through R6 Targeted Fuels Investment

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Photos 1 and Photos 2: Before and after of an NRCS project in Bend’s municipal watershed. Photo 3: Project check of an NRCS thinning and wood chipping project to reduce fuels in Bend’s municipal watershed. Photo Courtesy of Lars Santana, NRCS
Workflow Screening
Workflow priority based on the lowest screening answer
1. Does the assessed practice schedule intersect the boundary of a selected and active JCLRP project (ie: The planned project is within the Joint Chiefs project area). Yes = High
2. The planned project is within the Joint Chiefs project area and greater than 4 miles from any existing forestry treatment areas. Yes = Medium
3. The planned project is outside of the Joint Chiefs project area. Yes = Low

Program Ranking Questions

1. Does the EQIP contract leverage the management of natural resources across land ownership (public-private) boundaries? 100 points
2. EQIP project is located in an area that is adjacent to high priority projects on public land as identified in the selected JCLRP project proposal. 100 points
3. EQIP project is located in an area that is within the same 12-digit hydrologic unit as high priority projects on public land as identified in the selected JCLRP project proposal. 75 points
Total Maximum Points = 200

Resource Ranking Questions
1. The application screens high 10 points
2. There is an approved forest management plan that has been developed for the property within the past 10 years. 60 points
3. There is an approved forest management plan that has been developed for the property greater than 10 years ago. 50 points
4. The project area is clearly identified in an existing forest management plan. 30 points
5. The proposed action includes forest stand improvement and woody residue treatment. 20 points
6. The proposed project is adjacent (<500 feet) to an existing forest stand improvement project area. 50 points
7. The proposed project is >500 feet to 1 mile of an existing forest stand improvement project area. 30 points
8. The proposed project is greater than 1 mile of an existing forest stand improvement project area. 5 points
9. Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Very High 30 points
10. Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is High 15 points
11. Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Moderate 10 points
12. Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Low 7 points
13. Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Low Benefit or Benefit 5 points
Our Mission

To provide local leadership, education, motivation, and assistance to the citizens of Deschutes County for responsible, efficient stewardship of our soil and water resources.
Financial Assistance for Fire Risk Reduction and Forest Health Improvements

The objective of this program is to enhance and restore forest health while focusing conservation activities in high wildfire risk areas. Working with partners will provide a cost-effective opportunity to reduce hazardous fuels and decrease wildfire intensity, increase the ability of firefighters to protect homes and lives, maintain and improve ecosystem health, and promote wildlife habitat.

Your local USDA-NRCS Service Center is working with private landowners to provide financial assistance to implement voluntary restoration actions within the boundary area (outlined in red).

For more information contact:

Todd Peplin, Deschutes SWCD Programs Lead
(541)550-6339 Todd.Peplin1@or.nascd.net

Erin Kilcullen, Deschutes SWCD Manager
(541)550-6834 ekilcullen.dswcd@outlook.com

Lars Santana, NRCS District Conservationist
(541)699-3194 Lars.Santana@usda.gov

Fire History and Restoring Fire-Resilient Landscapes

Historical-with fire

Current- With fire suppression

Future-desired conditions

Peter M. Brown, Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research

nrcs.usda.gov/
Planning Session
Irrigation
Irrigation Focus  
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions
  Review the Local Working Group Process
  NRCS Conservation - Farm Bill Programs Overview

Review performance of past year’s irrigation related conservation efforts

Smith Rock Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
  Presented in partnership with:
  Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC)

Deschutes County On-farm Irrigation and Energy Efficiency CIS
  Presented in partnership with:
  Deschutes County Soil and Water Conservation District

Planning session
  Irrigation Priority Resource Concerns
  Irrigation Priority Areas
  Irrigation Conservation Measurables and Outcomes
Local Work Group

- Clients
- Partners
- SWCD
- NRCS

Long Range Plan

Conservation Plans

Threat Project
Threat Project
Threat Project

NRCS
SWCD

Clients
Partners
nrcs.usda.gov/
Introductions

We invite you to share:
1. Your Name
2. Your affiliation/role/area of interest
3. Why this meeting is important to you
Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

TSID Whychus Creek Watershed Restoration Project & On Farm/Renewable Energy RCPP
Three Sisters Irrigation District

Conservation Practices

Irrigation Pipeline

Flow Meters

Irrigation Water Management

Sprinkler Systems

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nr.cs.usda.gov/
Our Mission

To provide local leadership, education, motivation, and assistance to the citizens of Deschutes County for responsible, efficient stewardship of our soil and water resources.
### Ranking Criteria

#### Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities
- Practices utilize potential pressurized waterpower to reduce energy demand: 30 points
- Energy efficiency improved to reduce 1-5 horsepower: 10 points
- Energy efficiency improved to reduce 6-10 horsepower: 20 points
- Energy efficiency improved to reduce 10+ horsepower: 30 points
- Energy efficiency improved by installing a Variable Frequency Drive pump: 40 points

#### Insufficient Water: Inefficient use of irrigation water
- Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 40 ac.in/ac or more: 40 points
- Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 35-39 ac.in/ac: 30 points
- Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 31-34 ac.in/ac: 15 points
- Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 28-30 ac.in/ac: 14 points
- Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 25-27 ac.in/ac: 13 points
- Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 20-24 ac.in/ac: 12 points
- Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 1-19 ac.in/ac: 10 points
- Water seepage loss is reduced by transitioning from open ditch to pipeline: 20 points

#### Community Based Conservation Support
- The irrigation system, ditch, or lateral is shared with multiple users and there is a draft operation plan that demonstrates shared user commitment for improvement and maintenance: 20 points

- The irrigation system, ditch, or lateral is shared with multiple users and there is an established document that shows agreed user consensus and commitment for the improvement project: 20 points

- The irrigation system, ditch, or lateral has one user (ie: not shared with multiple users) and there is a draft operation plan that demonstrates user commitment for improvement and maintenance: 40 points
Deschutes County and Jefferson County Conservation Program Obligations

Protracts Data Reports

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Obligations</th>
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<th>CSP</th>
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<td>$223,670.00</td>
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- Deschutes On-farm Irrigation and Energy Efficiency CIS
- Smith Rock Irrigation Modernization & Conservation RCPP
- Agency Plains Water Quality CIS
- Three Sisters Irrigation District RCPP
- Restoration of Fire Resilient Landscapes CIS
- Joint Chiefs - Buttes to Basins – All Lands Forest Resiliency
- Hydrologic Restoration for Steelhead CIS
- Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) – Administered by Crook County
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