NRCS Oregon
Programs Update

Art Ariaz – Acting ASTC-Programs
Overview

(EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural and forestry producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

EQIP Initiatives

- High Tunnel Initiative
- Organic Initiative
- Sage Grouse Initiative
- On-Farm Energy Initiative
- Animal Feeding Operation
- Water Quality Initiative
- Joint Chiefs Initiative
- Air Quality Initiative
EQIP Continued…

Contracts Obligated
• 95% of total Funds Obligated
• 421 contracts Funded
• Over $20M obligated

June Funds Assessment
Additional Funds Requested-
• $4,000,000.00 total from all OR BTLs
• Requests from 25 States
• Over $289 million in requests
• Available funds: $42 million
• Funding requests still awaiting Chiefs approval
Overview

CIC combines eligible management practices with needed supporting practices across High Priority Areas (HPA) determined by the State Conservationist in Oregon.

HPA 1 - Lower Willamette / North Coast Basins

This high priority area covers Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Washington, Yamhill, Polk, Multnomah, Clackamas and Marion counties.

Land Use: Cropland

Resource Concern(s): Water depletion

Conservation Practices Available:

> Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329)
> Cover Crop (340)
> Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345)
> Irrigation Pipeline (430)
> Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
> Sprinkler System (442)
> Irrigation Water Management (449)
> Pumping Plant (533)
> Structure for Water Control (587)

HPA 2 - Central Coast / Upper Willamette and Southwest Basins

This high priority area covers Lincoln, Benton, Linn, Lane, Coos, Douglas, Curry, Josephine and Jackson counties.

Land Use: Pasture

Resource Concern(s):

> Soil quality limitations
> Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss
> Degraded plant condition

Conservation Practices Available:

> Brush Management (314)
> Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315)
> Fence (382)
> Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
> Livestock Pipeline (516)
> Prescribed Grazing (528)
> Heavy Use Area (561)
> Nutrient Management (590)
> Watering Facility (614)
EQIP-CIC Continued…

HPA 3 - John Day / Umatilla and Snake River Basins

This high priority area covers Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Wheeler, Grant, Union, Wallowa, Baker and Mahleur counties.

Land Use: Cropland
Resource Concern(s):
- Soil quality limitations
- Wind and water erosion

Conservation Practices Available:
- Soil Testing (216)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Mulching (484)
- Surface Roughening (609)

Contracts Obligated
- 72% of total funds obligated
- $768K obligated
- 13 contracts funded so far

HPA 4 - Deschutes and High Desert Basins

This high priority area covers Klamath County.

Land Use: Cropland
Resource Concern(s):
- Soil quality limitations
- Wind and water erosion

Conservation Practices Available:
- Soil Testing (216)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Mulching (484)
- Surface Roughening (609)
Overview
The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.

Oregon FY2022 RCPP Status
- 144 applications
- 107 in approved or pre-approved status
- Ready to obligate $2.6M
CSP
Conservation Stewardship Program

Overview
The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. CSP pays participants for conservation performance— the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

How It Works
CSP provides two possible types of payments through five-year contracts: annual payments for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices; and supplemental payments for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation.
CSP Classic
• 310 applications
• 49 contracts funded
• $8.6M Obligated

CSP Renewals
• 179 applications
• 32 funded
• $6.5M obligated

June Funds Assessment
• CSP Classic Funds Request
• 4,431,000.00 additional funds requested
• Awaiting Chiefs approval
CIG
Conservation Innovation Grant

Overview
CIG is a competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. On-Farm Trials projects feature collaboration between NRCS and partners to implement on-the-ground conservation activities and then evaluate their impact. Incentive payments are provided to producers to offset the risk of implementing innovative approaches.

Oregon CIG Numbers
• 4 applications submitted
• All 4 funded
• $296K total amount to fund all 4
ACEP
Agriculture Conservation Easement Program

Overview
ACEP protects the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses which negatively affect agricultural uses and conservation values, protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible grazing land, and protecting and restoring and enhancing wetlands on eligible land.

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) help private and tribal landowners, land trusts, and other entities such as state and local governments protect croplands and grasslands on working farms and ranches by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements.

Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE) help private and tribal landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.
NRCS Oregon requested additional funding for both ALE and WRE after seeing significant interest and receiving a record number of applications for ALE.

- To meet this ALE demand, Oregon was awarded $6.7M, allowing us to work with landowners to protect 14,917 acres of working lands.
- Additional WRE funds will allow us to continue our work with The Nature Conservancy, private landowners and other partners to protect the remaining 10,735 acres of the 30,539ac Sycan Marsh preserve in Klamath Basin. The preserve is home to thousands of birds, threatened fish and aquatic species.
PL-566
Watershed Prevention and Flood Prevention Program

Overview
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

Oregon has 28 watershed planning efforts underway with 25 different sponsors
- 10 additional sponsors have directly expressed interest in program
- Since 2017, we’ve secured more than $140M for watershed planning efforts
Questions?