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Local Work Group Meeting

- **1:00-1:15 Welcome and settle into zoom**
- **1:10-1:30 Current USDA-NRCS CIS's Programs in Lincoln/West Lane**
- **1:30-1:45 Current USDA-NRCS Initiative**
- **1:45-1:55 What is Next in Lincoln/West Lane**
- **1:55-2:00 Last Thoughts-Feedback**





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Our Mission:

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) collaborates with farmers, ranchers, communities and other individuals and groups to protect natural resources on private lands. Working side by side with our partners and customers, we identify natural resource concerns such as water quality and quantity issues, soil erosion, air quality, wetlands and wildlife habitat, and develop solutions to restore and protect these resources.



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Oregon NRCS



The GOAL is to enhance our capacity:

To invest strategically to solve natural resource problems and be more effective, efficient, and accountable for staffing, funding and partnerships.



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Local Work Group Meeting

Every year, NRCS hosts Local Work Group meetings where agricultural operators, landowners, tribal partners, conservation partners, and other members of the community discuss the natural resource needs for the county. Based on feedback from those meetings, NRCS updates the Long Range Plan and develops new Conservation Implementation Strategies to address those resource concerns. You may contact us anytime to express concerns or comments about conservation needs in the region.



STRATEGIC APPROACH TO CONSERVATION



Partner-Centric: Collaboration and coordination through partnerships with local, state and federal governments, SWCDs, tribes, NGOs, and other groups.

Cost Effective: Leverages funding sources from partners to make the most effective use of limited federal conservation dollars.

Focused & Targeted: Investments target specific areas to achieve clearly-defined natural resource goals.

Results Oriented: Emphasis on planning with the end in mind. Long Range Plans and local CIS designed with measurable goals.

A Management Tool: Allows staff to better prioritize, track, plan, and monitor conservation projects on-the-ground. Empowers staff to deliver more effective project planning and increases our efficiency in implementation.



Programs



- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
 - Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural 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, or improved wildlife habitat.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**
 - Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns.
- **Technical Assistance**
 - NRCS delivers technical assistance through its voluntary Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA). Although CTA does not include financial or cost-share assistance, landowners may develop plans that can, in turn, serve as a springboard for future participation in conservation program.
- **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.
 - Stand alone program that offers opportunities as EQIP, CSP, Easements (including HFRP).
- **Other Programs**
 - Easements, Agricultural Conservation Easement
 - Conservation Innovation Grants



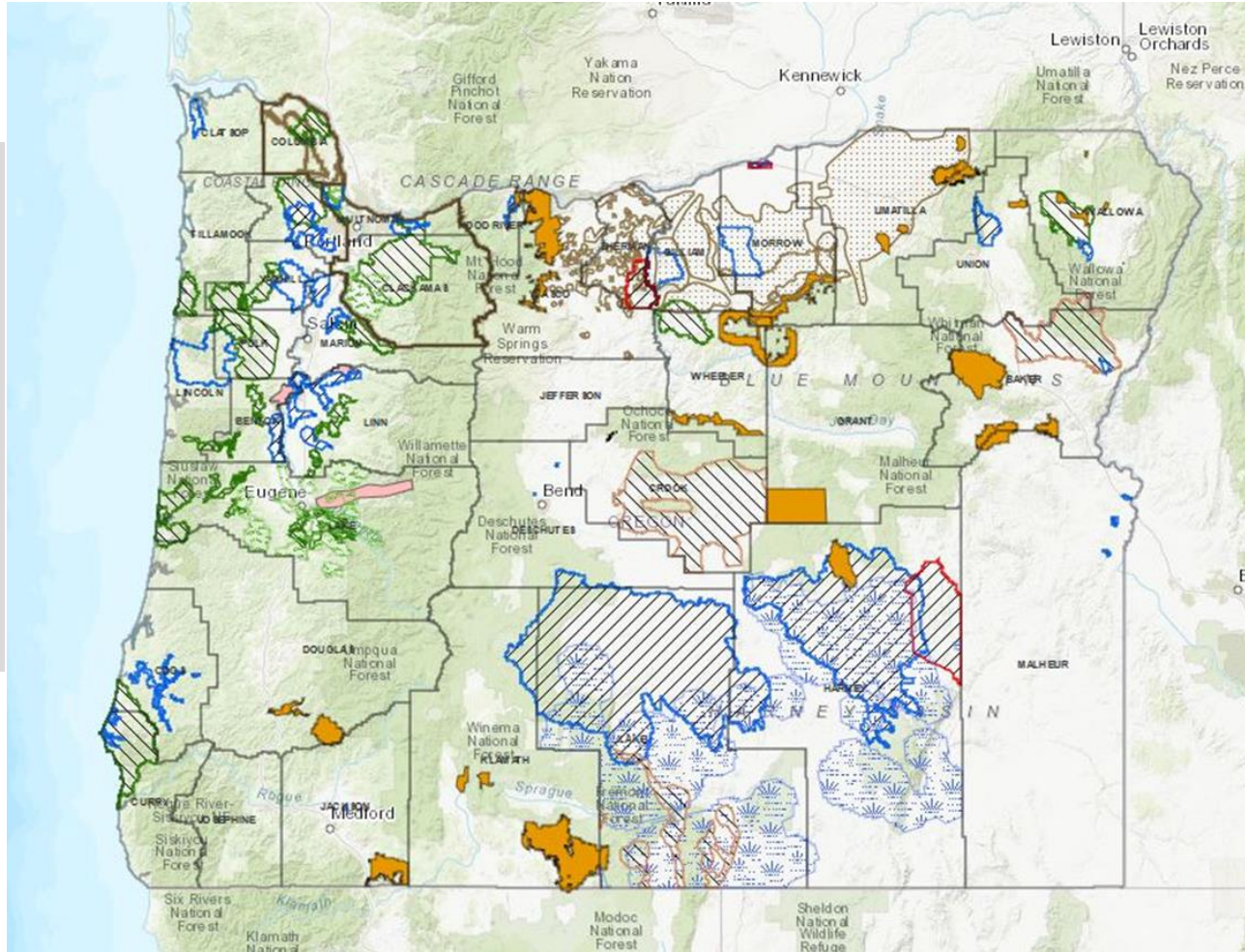
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS)

- ‘Conservation Implementation Strategies’ are derived from the Long Range Plans and lay out the technical and financial needs for a specific resource concern for up to five years. More specifically, they describe the primary resource goals, proposed solutions and actions, necessary funds and technical assistance, and monitoring and evaluating methods as well as implementation timeline and partner roles.
- **There are three current CIS for the Waldport office.**
 - Siuslaw Salmon Sanctuary
 - Siletz Forest Strategy
 - Forest Resistance and Resilience



Current CIS



LEGEND

- Upland Wildlife
- Invasives
- Mule Deer
- Wetland
- Irrigation Efficiency
- Water Quality
- Oak Woodland
- Forest Health
- Wildfire
- Salmon
- Soil Health

- Siuslaw Salmon Sanctuary
- Siletz Forest Strategy
- Forest Resistance and Resilience

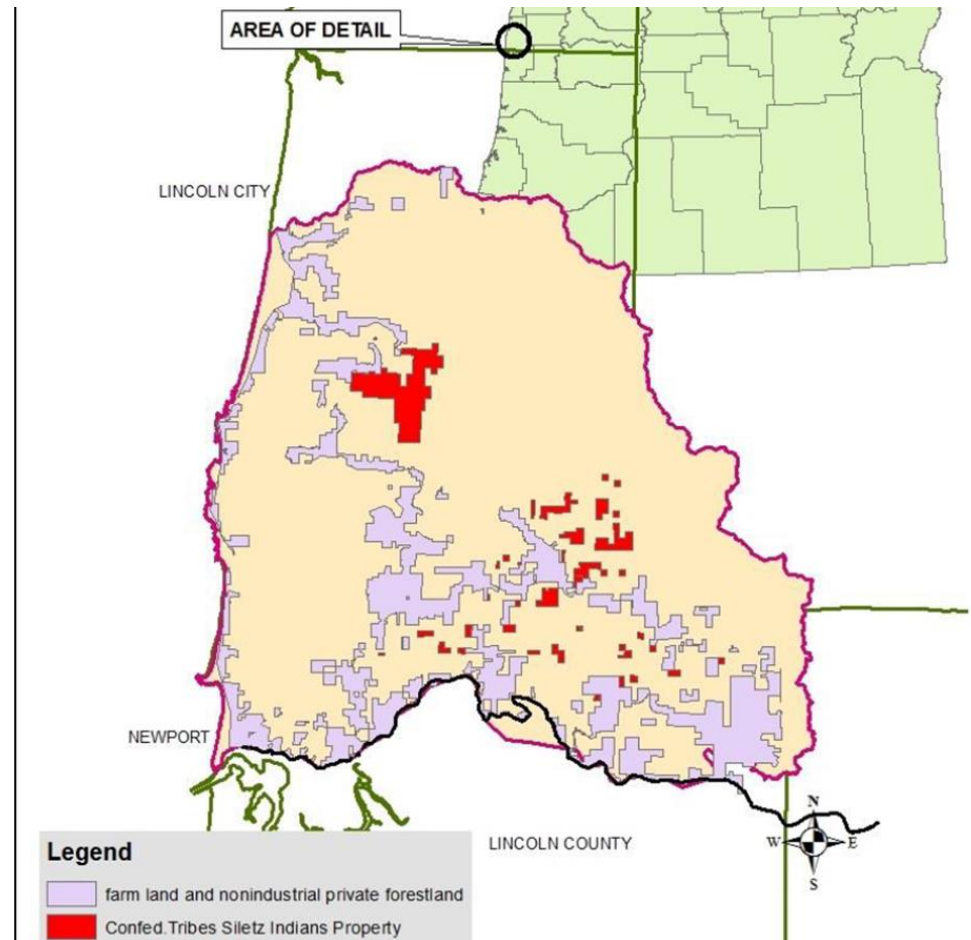
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Siletz Forest Conservation Implementation Strategy

- **Focus Area:** Siletz Basin (Lincoln County)
- **Timeline:** 2018-2021
- **Priority Resources:**
 - Water quality – sediment & nutrients
 - Forest structure & composition
- **Goal:** treat 1000 acres of farm and forestland over 3 years, ~\$300,000 total



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Siletz Forest Conservation Implementation Strategy

Accomplishments

- **1 Contract from 2020**
 - \$535,126
 - 1,316 acres of forest stand improvement
- **Accomplishments from previous period (2013-2017)**
 - 4 contracts
 - ~\$390,000
 - 1,471 acres of Forest Stand Improvement (PCT) contracted



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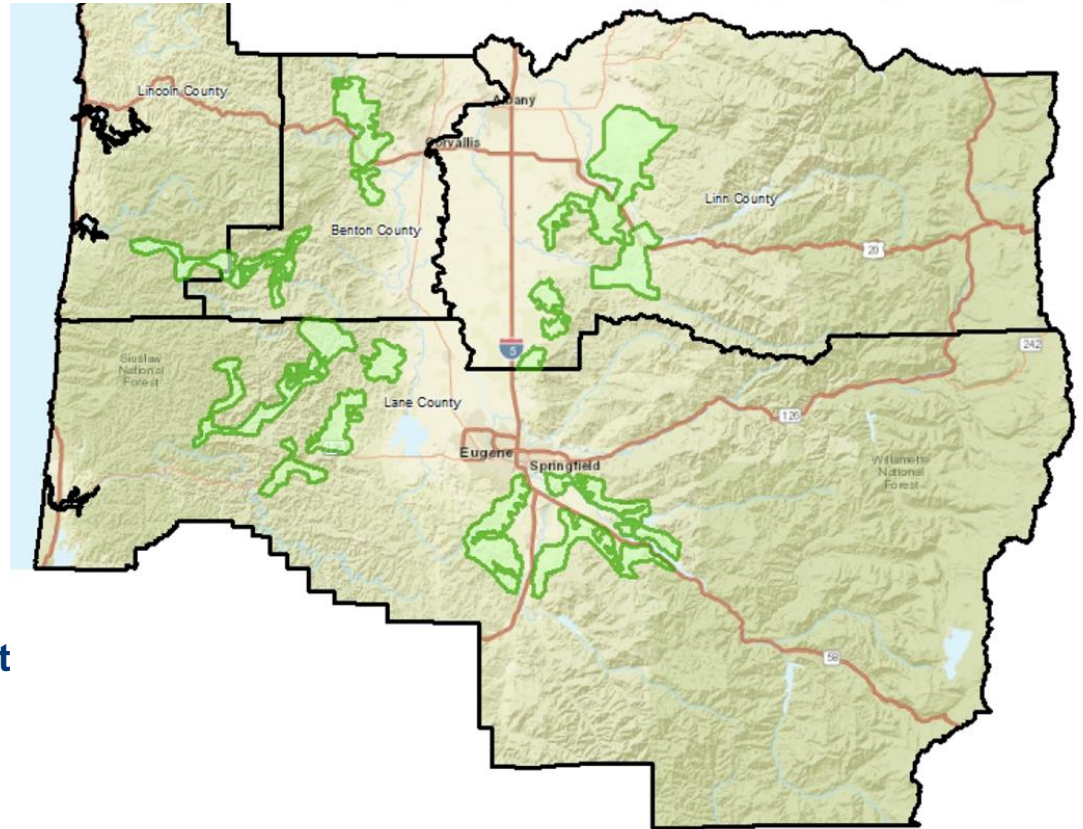


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Forest Resistance and Resilience

- **Focus Area: Lincoln, Lane, Linn & Benton Counties (upper Alsea, Deadwood, Lake/Swartz Creek, Wildcat/ Chickahominy Creek)**
- **Timeline: 2019-2023**
- **Priority Resources:**
 - Forest structure & composition
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Wildfire hazard
- **Goal: treat 3,500 acres in 4-county area over 5 years, ~\$900,000 total**
- **No contracts for West Lane in 2020**
- **Lincoln-West Lane Accomplishment in 2019**
 - 2 Contracts
 - ~\$41,000 obligated





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National Initiatives

Cheyenne Rico | 1/20/2021

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National Initiatives



Organic

- **Technical and financial assistance to support conservation on organic operations. Supports organic certification standards.**

Certifiers must ensure that an operation's OSP describes or lists practices that explain the operation's monitoring plan and practices to comprehensively support natural resources and biodiversity conservation, pursuant to § 205.200 of the regulations.

Resource Concerns

- **Plant Productivity and Health**
- **Plant Pest Pressure**
- **Inefficient Irrigation Use**
- **Inadequate Livestock Water**
- **Habitat for Wildlife**
- **Erosion**

Topics	NRCS Assistance May Be Available ³	Examples of Activities ⁴
Examples Relevant to All Types of Organic Certification		
Soil Composition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adding organic matter through the diversity of crops and inputs, to the soil to increase the diversity of soil organisms and to improve nutrient cycling, competitive exclusion of plant pathogens, long-term storage of soil carbon, and adaption to extreme climatic conditions and water holding capacity.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conserving and restoring forests, shrublands, woodlands, grasslands, riparian areas ⁵ and wetland areas, which sequester carbon in soils and aid in cycling soil nutrients.
Soil Stability and Water Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Creating, conserving, and restoring vegetative covers (forests, shrublands, woodlands, grasslands, riparian areas, and wetland areas) that control erosion and filter nutrient, pesticide, and pathogen pollutants. Minimizing disturbances, maximizing diversity, living roots and cover.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Using no-till or permanent cover, conservation tillage, terracing, contour farming, micro-irrigation, windbreaks, cover crops, grass waterways and soil health practices.



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Initiatives



High Tunnel

- Seeks to extend the growing season and promote local sources of fresh produce.

Resource Concerns

- Plant Productivity and Health
- Organic Matter Depletion
- Erosion

Note: National Initiatives are available outside of CIS areas.



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Example Practices



Organic *Crop*

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (329)
- High Tunnel System (325)
- Structures for Wildlife (649)

Livestock

- Watering Facility (614)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Fence (382)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)

High Tunnel

- High Tunnel System (325)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Cover Crop (340)



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CREP- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

A *voluntary* riparian* restoration cost-share and land rental program

Requires a 10- to 15-year contract with FSA to exclude grazing and harvest in the riparian buffer, maintain the new trees

FSA pays cost-shares and incentives to the cooperator to restore riparian buffer

FSA also pays the cooperator a yearly rental

CREP can help comply with Oregon Agricultural Water Quality protection and other rules

CREP pays for:

Normally accepted conservation farming practices on agricultural land (fence, native riparian trees/shrubs, off-stream water)

Practices agreed to by landowner (customized for specific wildlife, concerns, pollinators, viewshed, etc.) in an approved plan

***Streambank, riverbank**





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Proposed CIS and Long Term Planning

Katie Woodruff | 1/20/2020

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Long Term Planning



The local work group process is year round but once a year the LWG convenes to review CIS and talk about future direction.

- What is the problem/resource concern
- Where is it located at
- Who needs to be involved
- When does it need to take place
- How will the problem be solved



Long Term Planning



**NRCS breaks land use into Crop, Pasture, Range and Forestry.
Local land uses in the two counties are forestry, crop and pasture.
Common resource concerns in the area:**

- **Water**
 - Elevated water temperature
- **Soil**
 - Erosion
- **Animals**
 - Aquatic fish habitat
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Livestock water
 - Feed and forage imbalance
- **Plants**
 - Plant productivity and health
 - Plant structure and composition
 - Plant pest pressure
 - Wildfire hazard





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Other needs



Are there other needs in the two counties that NRCS should be aware of?

You may reach me at:

Katie Woodruff

District Conservationist

Coos and Curry Counties

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Phone 541-824-8091

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