

**United States Department of Agriculture**



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**Location:     Bandon Library**

**1204 11<sup>th</sup> St SW, Bandon OR 97411**

**Conference room**

**In the event of hazardous weather, or if you would prefer to attend virtually, a Zoom link is available. If you would like a Zoom link for the meeting or need any accommodations, please contact Katie Woodruff at (541) 551-0707 [katlyn.woodruff@usda.gov](mailto:katlyn.woodruff@usda.gov)**

Feb 4, 2025

4:00 Welcome

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4:05 Introduction

4:25 Program Review and Current Strategies: CIS and IRA funding

4:50 Highlights of 2024

5:00 FSA staffing

5:10 CREP Update

5:30 Introduce CSP

5:40 Closing/Discussion

6:00 Adjourn

### **Notes – Local Work Group Meeting in Bandon 04 February 2025**

Katie Woodruff, Ruth Walter, Kelly Louveau, Barbara Grant, Tom Snyder, Heather Medina Saucedo.

Melina Pastos NRCS Tribal Liaison for the state joined us.

Tom did introductions and then the group went around and introduced themselves, including the people on zoom.

Katie gave an overview of NRCS goals and programs and went over yearly cost changes. For FY25, the prices for gorse removal and cranberry irrigation were discussed. Katie explained the two-step process for the cranberry CIS: first apply for an evaluation, then apply for implementation. Each of the local CISs were reviewed as well as some national programs including IRA, and an update was given that funds are on pause for IRA for now. The Tidegate CIS was reviewed, but no one present was interested in the program. Katie also went over the CSP program and explained that it is focused more on management enhancements than EQIP. Application deadline is February 28, 2025, for CSP.

There was some discussion on fencing because a landowner asked if there are funds for elk fencing to protect crops. Katie explained that we cannot fund this type of fencing as it goes against NRCS policy. A landowner asked about perimeter fencing and the types available. In response we discussed GPS collars, barbed wire, woven wire, etc. NRCS doesn't do perimeter fencing if it doesn't address resource concerns. On the topic of success with collars for virtual fencing for cows: subscription fees and ranges, and the costs vary depending on the number of collars needed. You must be disciplined and train the cows. Manufacturers want you to be successful and won't sell to you unless you agree to go through the training.

There were some discussions on forest management. There were some questions about existing forest management plans and the response was that if they have an existing plan, have ODF review it to ensure it complies with state and federal laws. It was discussed that forest practices can be used to improve the stand for wildlife habitat. Forester can help with recommendations with what to plant as far as habitat and stand health. Interplant to add diversity.

Some requests for carbon credits, but NRCS is not involved in this process since it's an open market. There is the website COMET if landowners want to investigate it themselves.

The Coquille field office used IRA for forest management improvement last year. Carbon sequestration is the main goal of IRA funding. Forest stand improvement, nutrient management, and prescribed grazing increase carbon storage. Tom asked if anyone is

doing Silvopasture here in this area. The response was that there are a few open timber and cattle ranches to the south, but none have reached out at this time.

CREP: Get in applications to FSA this spring. CREP is a cost share program for riparian restoration through tree and shrub planting in addition to fencing out livestock. This benefits fish and water quality.

Open for questions, what else can we provide for gorse removal, is there anything anyone wants to see? We have 2 applications and can continue with it if we keep getting interest. One request to include wind break, shrub and plant establishment and shelter belts. It was noted that it can be done in conjunction with pastures.

Riparian conservationist wants to see in work zones. Chris from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) went over some of the concerns in the area including bank erosion. Riverbank restoration activities include placement of log structures, planting, bank sloping, etc. Current concerns include: how do you prioritize it, permitting, and capacity. At this time watershed associations, SWCDs, etc. have funding for these projects. Maybe in the future NRCS could get involved but it would take away funding from other programs. RCPP might be a good avenue for applying for bank stabilization with alternative funding arrangement. NWQI maybe an option for getting additional funds for these kinds of projects. Chris from ODFW and Matt Swanson really want to see everyone come together with funds to help with bank erosion.

Pasture improvement and other ag-related project funds are hard to get from agencies or organizations aside from NRCS, which is why NRCS is currently focusing primarily on these fund pools. It was also mentioned that funds are limited and if we move the focus of funding to a different resource concern then it pulls money from the resource concerns we are currently working on.