



Lincoln County 2025 Local Work Group Meeting

Welcome!



Natural Resources Conservation Service

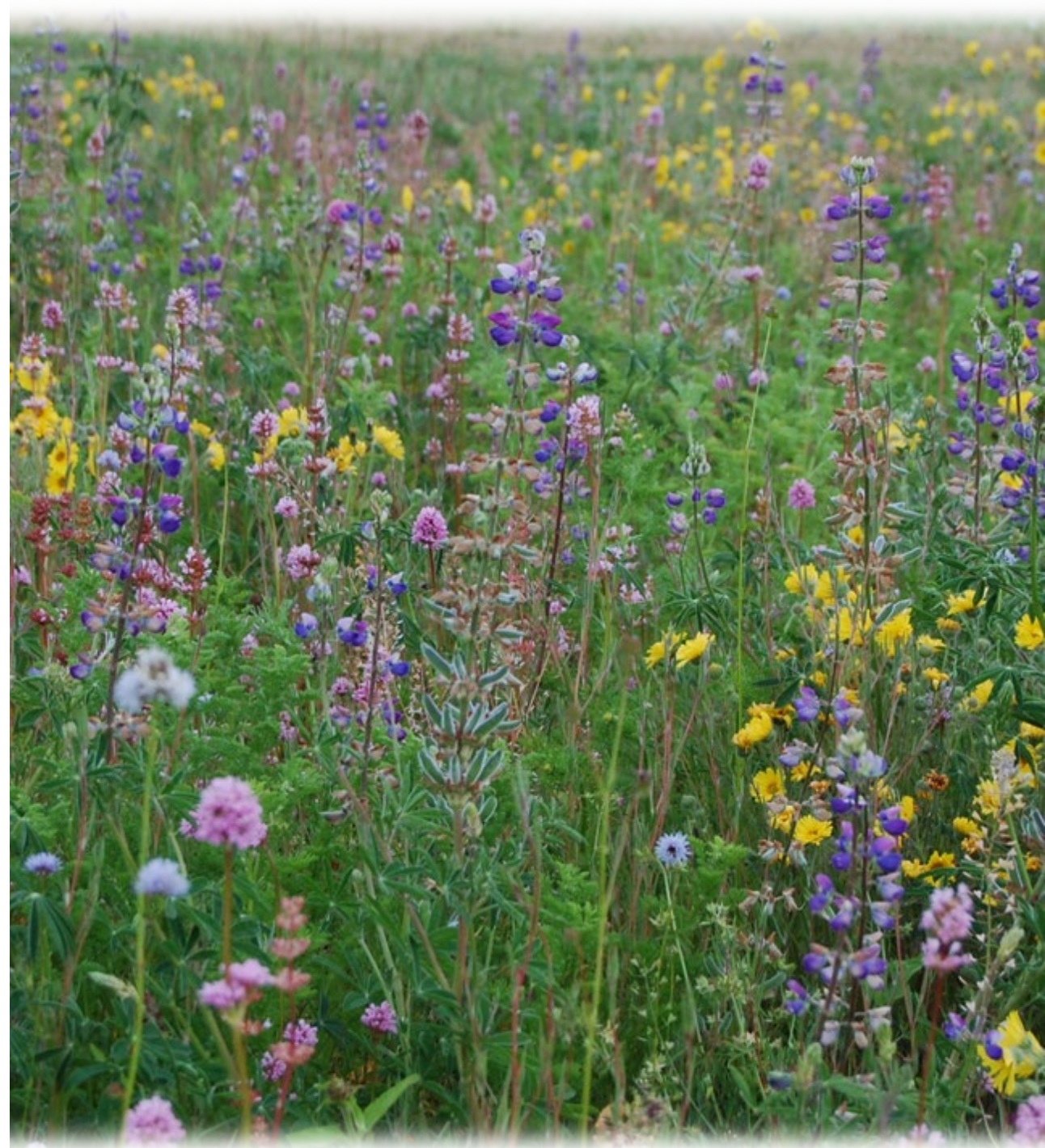
Agenda

Topic	Speaker	Time
Welcome & Introductions	All	25 minutes
Objectives of LWG	Annie Marion, District Conservationist	5 minutes
Overview of NRCS Programs and Conservation Implementation Strategies	Annie Marion, District Conservationist	30 minutes
Break		5 minutes
Lincoln SWCD Updates	Tyler Clouse, LSWCD	20 minutes
Future conservation needs or concerns	All	10 minutes
Partner Updates & Priorities	All	15 minutes
Next Steps, Closing Comments, Q&A	District Conservationist / All	10 minutes

Introductions

- Your Name
- Where your farm/forestland is located and/or agency affiliation (as applicable)
- What is the top natural resource concern you're dealing with on your property or in your work?

(1 minute each)



Local Work Group Meeting Purpose

Share

- Review performance of the past year's projects.
- Introduce new USDA/NRCS programs.

Listen

- Gather input from producers and partners.
- Help shape plans and prioritize future year projects.
- Are there emerging issues that we need to address?
- Check in – how are we doing, what can we do better?

Connect

- Connect with partners to seek opportunities to leverage partnership funds.

USDA Farm Bill Programs

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Conservation Implementation Strategies – locally directed focus areas for funding pools
- High Tunnel Initiative, Organic Initiative, Organic Transition Initiative
- Inflation Reduction Act

EQIP – Conservation Incentive Contract (EQIP-CIC)

- Meant to act as a stepping-stone between EQIP and CSP
- Annual management payments plus associated practices

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Participants earn annual payments to maintain existing conservation systems and adopt additional enhancements to bring their conservation efforts to the next level.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Part of the Conservation Reserve Program run by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) – provides annual rental payments to take marginal pastureland out of production to restore degraded riparian zones and wetlands

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) – Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) & Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)

- Protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and forests through conservation easements.

Oregon's Strategic Approach to Conservation

Oregon NRCS



United States
Department of
Agriculture

About the Strategic Approach

RCPP

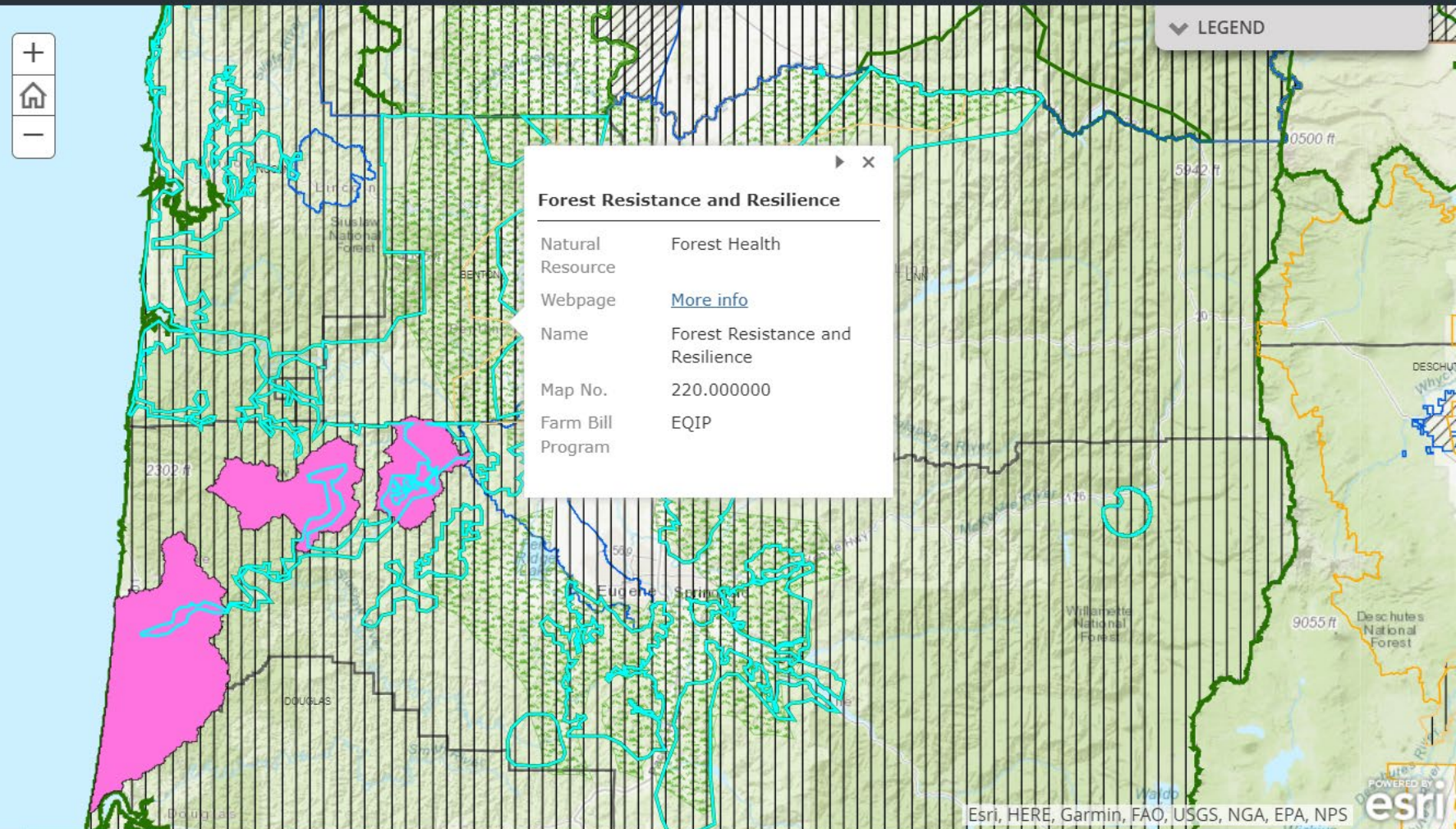
Joint Chiefs



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.](#)



Waldport FY24
EQIP Conservation
Implementation
Strategies (CIS's)

The diagram features a large orange circle on the left containing the title. To its right, five colored rectangular boxes are arranged in a grid-like fashion, each representing a specific conservation strategy. The boxes are: an orange box for 'Upper Yaquina Water Quality Strategy (Lincoln)', a grey box for 'Siuslaw Floodplain Reconnection (Lane, Douglas)', a yellow box for 'Forest Resistance & Resilience (Lincoln, Lane, Linn, Benton)', a blue box for 'Local Foods & Food Systems Resilience', and a green box for 'Forest Management Planning (Western Oregon)'.

Upper Yaquina
Water Quality
Strategy (Lincoln)

Siuslaw Floodplain
Reconnection
(Lane, Douglas)

Forest Resistance
& Resilience
(Lincoln, Lane,
Linn, Benton)

Local Foods &
Food Systems
Resilience

Forest
Management
Planning (Western
Oregon)

FY2024 At a Glance

EQIP:

- 31 applications
- 18 contracts funded, total of \$461,399 obligated
 - 2 Upper Yaquina Water Quality
 - 1 Siuslaw Floodplain Reconnection
 - 4 Forest Management Plans
 - 1 Forest Resistance & Resilience
 - 5 IRA – Forestland
 - 1 IRA – Pastureland
 - 2 Local Foods
 - 1 High Tunnel Initiative

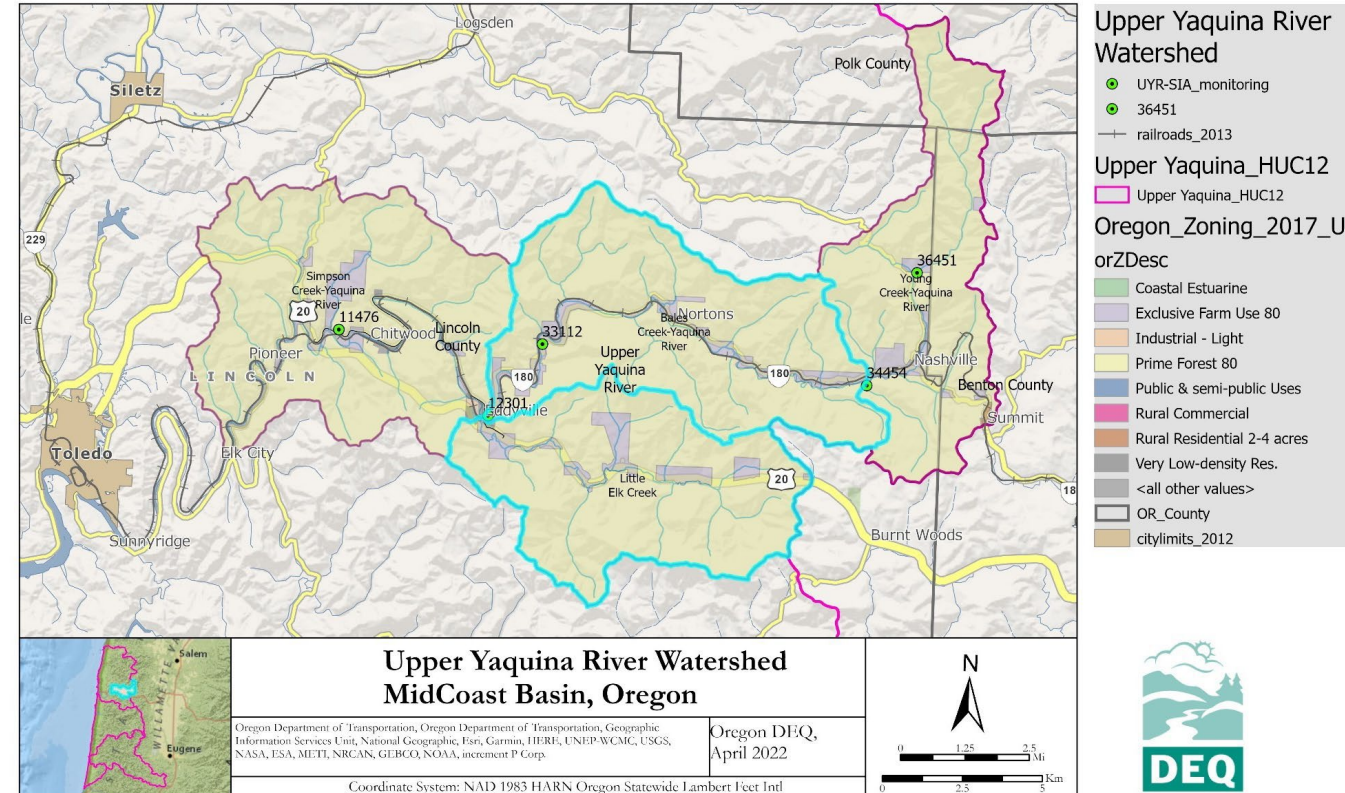
CSP:

- 2 applications
- Neither selected for funding – deferred to FY25



Upper Yaquina Water Quality CIS

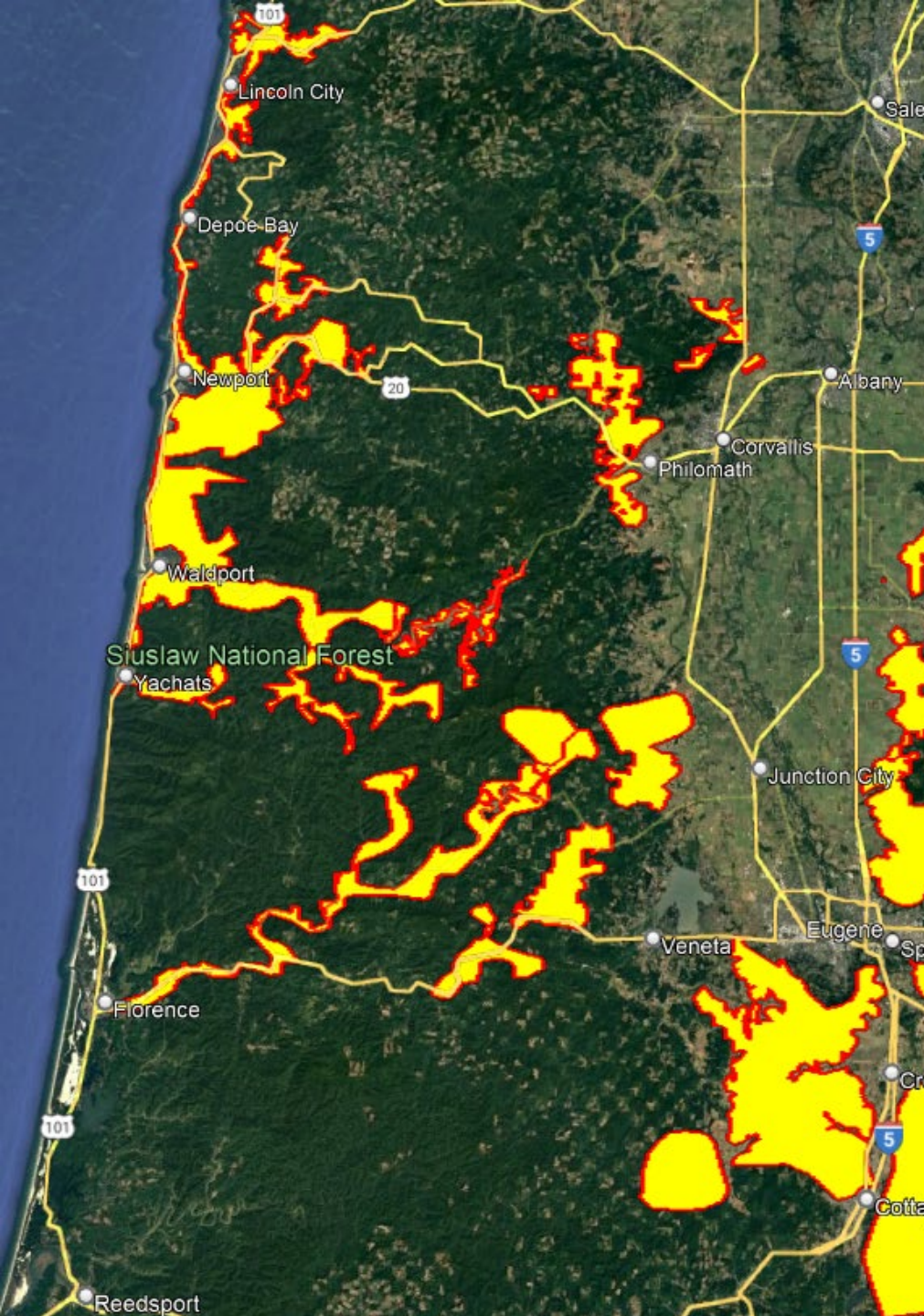
- **Focus Area:** Upper Yaquina River Watershed (LSWCD/ODA's Strategic Implementation Area)
- **Timeline:** 2023 – 2026
- **Land Uses:** Pasture/Hay, Associated Ag Lands, Farmstead
- **Priority Resource Concerns:**
 - Aquatic Habitat – elevated water temperature
 - Water Quality – sediment, nutrients & pathogens transported to surface water
- **Investments:**
 - 2 FY24 contracts
 - \$22,040 total, 9.4 ac – Compositing Facility, Site prep, Riparian planting, Wildlife Habitat Planting, Herbaceous Weed Trt
 - 3 FY25 applications



Forest Management Planning

- **Focus Area:** Western Oregon
- **Timeline:** 2022-2026
- **Priority Resources:**
 - Plant structure & composition
 - Wildfire hazard
 - Terrestrial wildlife habitat
- **Investments:**
 - 4 FY24 contracts (all Lincoln)
 - \$13,556 total, 415 ac FMP & Design
 - 3 applications for FY25

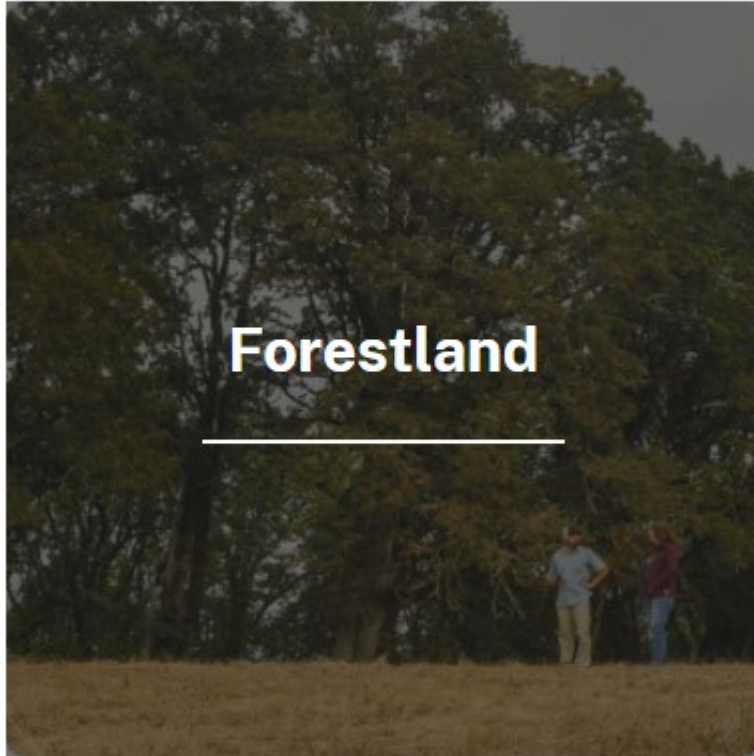




Forest Resistance & Resilience

- **Focus Area:** Mid-elevation private non-industrial forestland in Lincoln, Lane, Linn & Benton Counties
- **Timeline:** 2019-2025
- **Priority Resources:**
 - Forest structure & composition
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Wildfire hazard
- **Investments (Lincoln-West Lane):**
 - 2 FY19 contracts, 1 FY21 contract, & 2 FY22 contracts
 - 1 FY24 contract
 - \$115,281 total, 122 ac – Precommercial thinning, slash treatment, structures for wildlife (brush piles, downed large wood), Wildlife Habitat Planting (pollinator meadows)

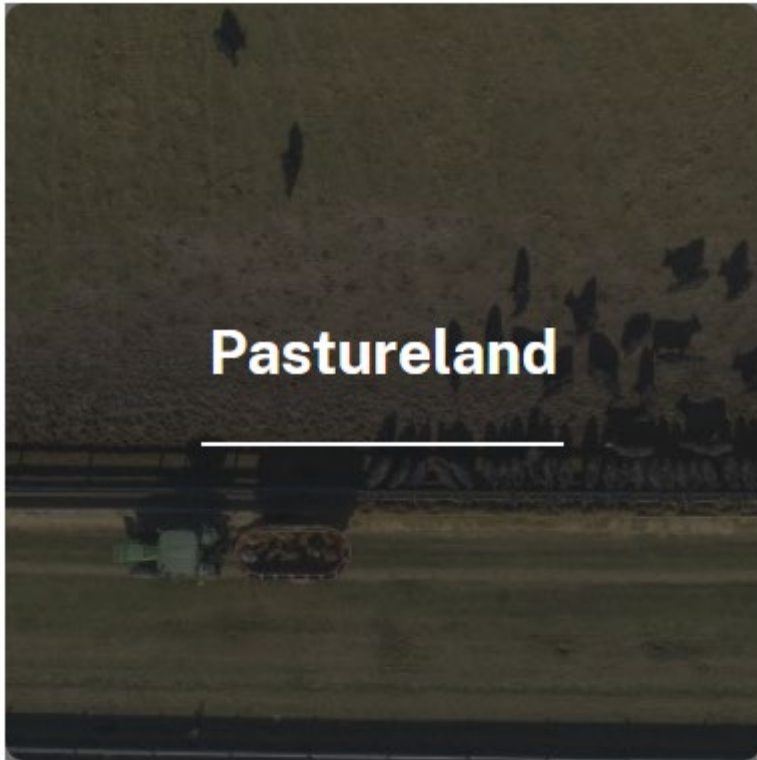
IRA EQIP Projects



Inflation Reduction Act - Forestland

- **Resource Concerns:**
 - Emission of Greenhouse Gases (carbon stocks)
 - Organic Matter Depletion
- **Investments:**
 - 1 FY23 contract
 - 5 FY24 contracts
 - \$79,667 total, 78.2 ac
- **Climate Smart Ag and Forestry Practices:**
 - Riparian Forest Buffer
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment
 - Forest Stand Improvement
 - Woody Residue Treatment

IRA EQIP Projects

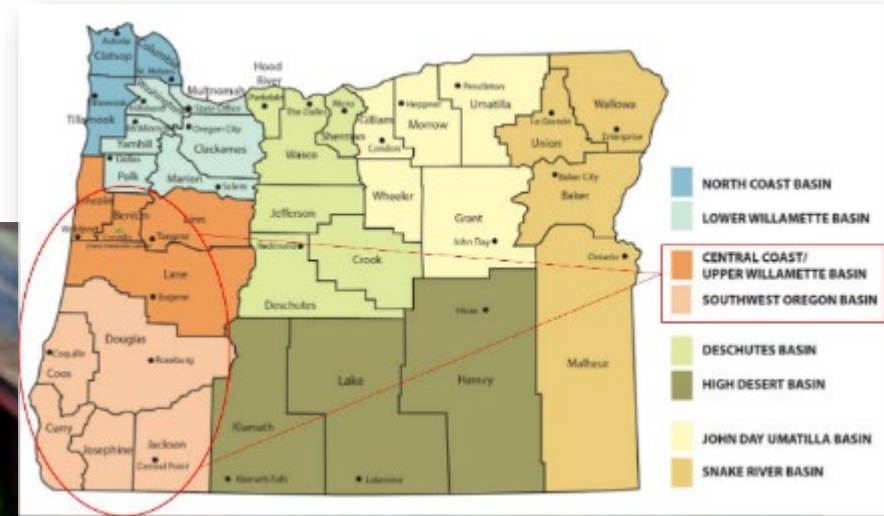


Inflation Reduction Act - Pastureland

- **Resource Concerns:**
 - Emission of Greenhouse Gases (carbon stocks)
 - Aggregate instability
- **Investments:**
 - 1 FY24 contract
 - \$10,711, 1.3 ac
- **Climate Smart Ag and Forestry Practices:**
 - Pasture Planting
 - Prescribed Grazing
 - Brush Management

Local Foods & Food Systems Resilience

- **Focus Area:** Central Coast/Upper Willamette and Southwest Oregon Basin
- **Timeline:** 2024 – 2026
- **Land Uses:** Crop, Pasture, Associated Ag Lands
- **Priority Resource Concerns:**
 - Soil organic matter depletion
 - Plant productivity & health
 - Terrestrial habitat for wildlife & invertebrates (pollinators)
- **Investments:**
 - 2 FY24 contracts
 - \$32,315 total – High Tunnels, Cover Crops, Hedgerow, Conservation Cover (pollinator meadow)
 - 7 FY25 applications



High Tunnel, Organic, & Organic Transition Initiatives

- High Tunnel Initiative
 - 1 FY24 contract (Lincoln)
 - \$10,000 total
 - 5 FY25 applications
- Organic Initiative
 - No FY24 contracts
- Organic Transition Initiative
 - 1 FY23 contract (Lane)
 - No FY24 contracts
 - 1 FY25 application (Lane)



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- ❖ 5-year contracts – annual payments + enhancements
 - 2 FY22 contracts (Lane), 1 FY23 (Lincoln)
 - 1 new FY25 Renewal forestry contract (Lane) – 87 ac, \$28,860
 - Increase stream shading for stream temperature reduction (E391B)
 - Establishing tree/shrub species to restore native plant communities(E612C)
 - 2 FY25 applications (cropland/small farms)
 - NEW in FY24 - \$4,000 annual minimum payment
-





Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Farm Service Agency (FSA) & OWEB with Technical Assistance from NRCS, ODF, SWCD's & watershed councils
- Available state-wide
- 10 or 15-year contracts
- **Goal:** Restore, maintain, and enhance streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality.
- 6 active contracts in Lincoln County, 176 ac
- 6 active contracts in west Lane, ~24 ac

Healthy Forests Reserve Program

- **Goal:** Restore, enhance & protect forestland for endangered species recovery (Northern Spotted Owl) and carbon sequestration
- 4 contracts (2009-2012) – West Lane
- 687 ac permanent easement



Wetland Reserve Easements

- **Goal:** Restore, protect & enhance wetlands for fish & wildlife habitat, to improve water quality, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, etc.
- 2 easements (5 landowners) – West Lane
- 385 ac permanent easement
- Tidal wetlands focus on Oregon coast

Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District Updates

Tyler Clouse

Looking Forward

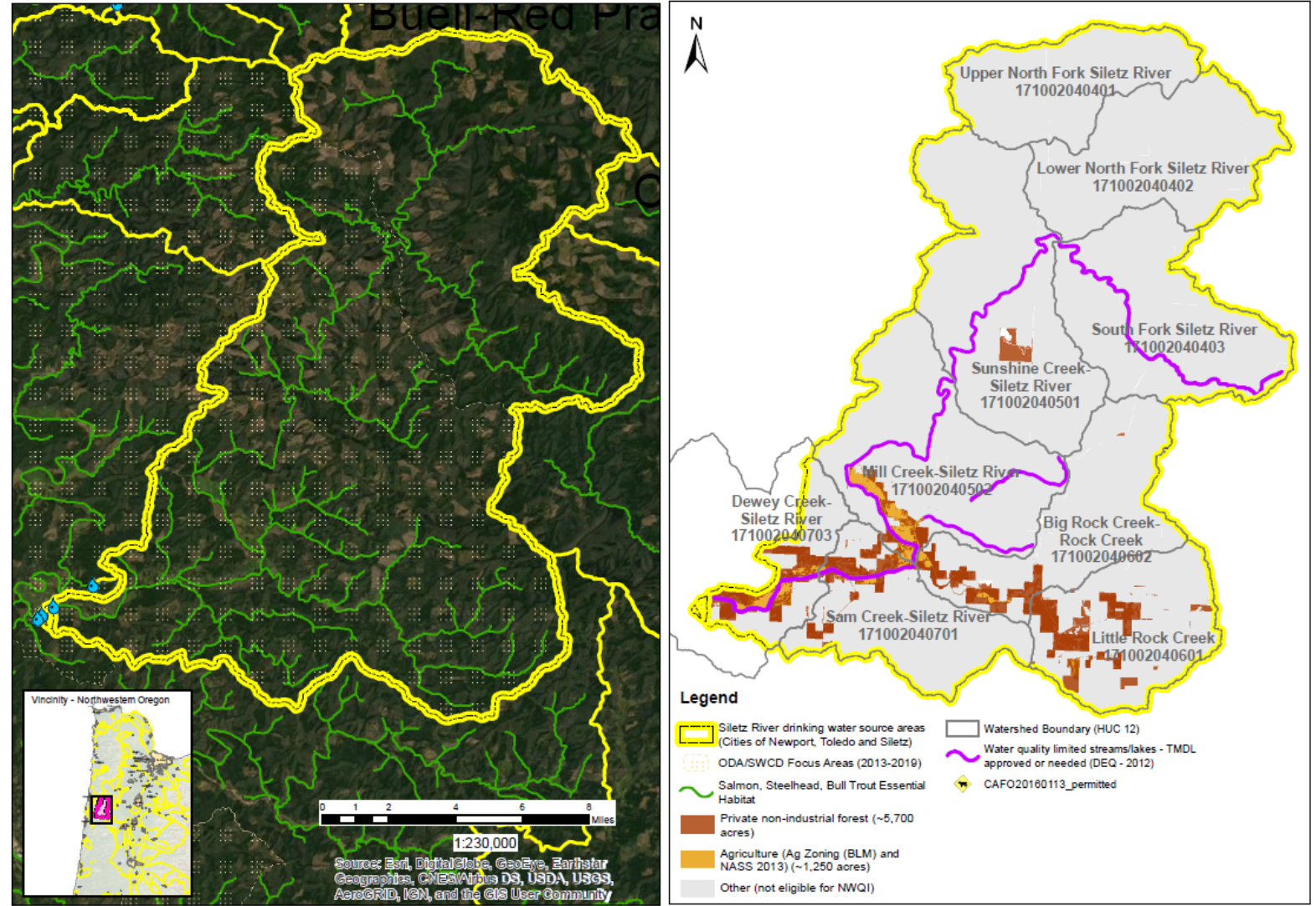
National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI):

Siletz River Source Water Protection Area

- 2024 Plan Completed by Lincoln SWCD
- Possible NWQI Implementation funding starting in FY26
- New ODA Strategic Implementation Area

Oregon potential NRCS NWQI SWP Project - Cities of Newport, Toledo and Siletz: Siletz River -Mid-Coast Basin

Susceptibility Criteria Summary: * Intense Ag landuse (crops and animals) and small woodlands/family forest in the lower portion of the watershed close to intakes; * Concerns with pesticide detections; * Previous area of concern for Harmful Algal Blooms * Lincoln SWCD Agricultural Focus Area * High soil erosion potential; * Essential Salmon Steelhead or Bull Trout Habitat; * Water Quality Limited 303(d) TMDL needed or completed for Turbidity. * High use for recreation and fishery.



Looking Forward – Potential Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project

Native Olympia Oyster Restoration – WA example



THE USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) WORKS TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES ON OUR NATION'S PRIVATE LANDS.

Financial and technical assistance is available from NRCS through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) for individual producer contracts to help restore Olympia Oysters. EQIP funding will help pay for the shell substrate essential for the Olympia Oysters to grow upon as well as placement of bags of seeded native oyster.

[10 Years, 100 Acres Success Story Map for Puget Sound Restoration Fund](#)

- **Nov. 4, 2024 Partner Meeting**
 - MidCoast Watersheds Council Office, Newport
 - Discussion of past research and restoration efforts, ideas for future work, potential funding sources
- **Potential Focus Area(s):** Yaquina Bay (Netarts Bay & Coos Bay?)
- **Possible Participants:** Shellfish producers, NGOs, and Tribes that own or lease shellfish beds
- **NRCS Conservation Practice:** Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities

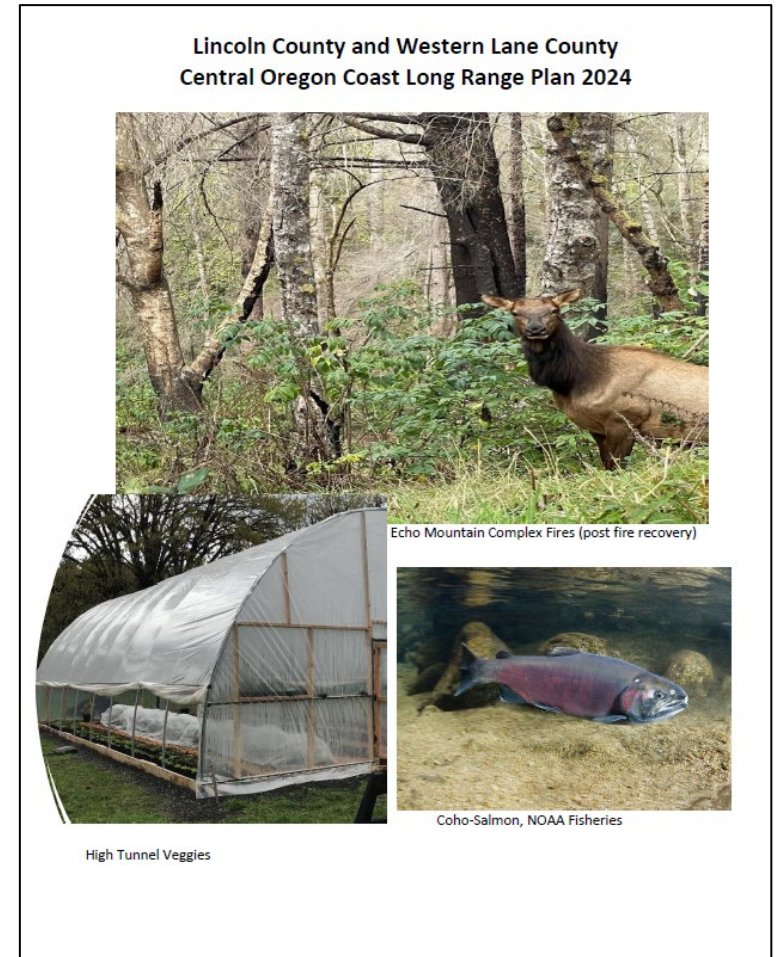
Future Conservation Needs/Concerns

Updated Central Coast Long Range Plan (2024)

Major Issues Identified:

- Water quality – sediment, temperature, nutrients, aquatic habitat, bank erosion
- Forest health – stand composition, vigor, density, wildfire hazard, wildlife habitat, invasive species
- Riparian, floodplain, & wetland habitat loss – elevated water temps, aquatic habitat, terrestrial wildlife habitat, invasive species
- Cropland & pasture soil quality – organic matter depletion, aggregate instability, carbon stocks (GHGs)
- Pasture health – stand composition, invasive species, forage production, off-stream water

➤ **Are there any additional priority resource concerns you think NRCS should be focusing on?**



Partner Updates & Priorities Round Robin

If you'd like to, please provide a quick (2-minute) update on top priorities and projects that you/your organization are planning and delivering in Lincoln County.

Focus on opportunities for future collaboration/funding.



Any last comments or questions?

Feel free to reach out anytime:

Annie Marion

District Conservationist

Anna.Marion@usda.gov

(541) 563-5627





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