



Siuslaw (West Lane County) 2025 Local Work Group Meeting

Welcome!



Natural Resources Conservation Service

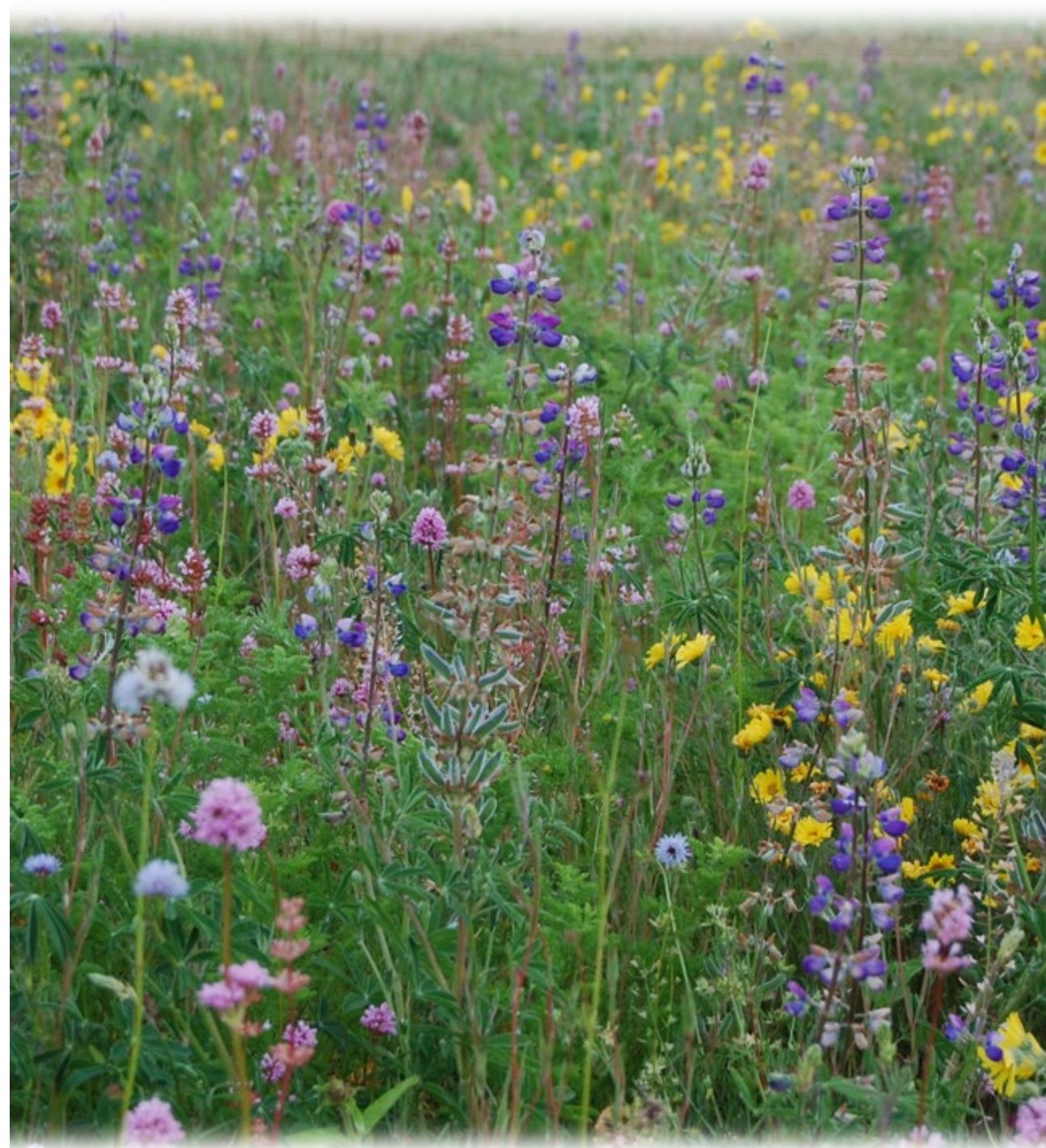
Agenda

Topic	Speaker	Time
Welcome & Introductions	All	25 minutes
Objectives of LWG	Annie Marion, District Conservationist	5 minutes
NRCS Assistance for Small Farms	Annie Marion, District Conservationist	20 minutes
Break		5 minutes
Overview of NRCS Programs and Conservation Implementation Strategies	Annie Marion, District Conservationist	25 minutes
Siuslaw SWCD Updates	Seth Mead, SSWCD	20 minutes
Future conservation needs or concerns	All	10 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

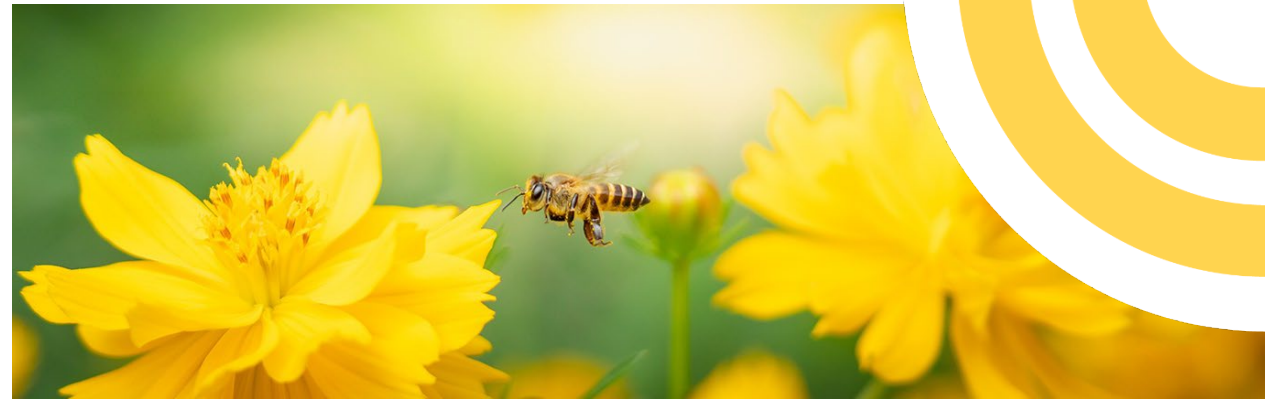
- Gather input from producers and partners.
- Help shape plans and prioritize future year projects.
- Are there emerging issues that we need to address?
- Check in – how are we doing, what can we do better?

Connect

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



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

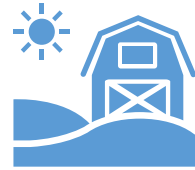


NRCS Assistance for Small Farms

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

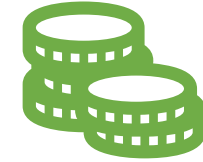


USDA Farm Bill Programs



Technical Assistance

Provides farmers, ranchers and forestland owners with the knowledge and tools they need to conserve, maintain and restore the natural resources on their lands and improve the health of their operations for the future.

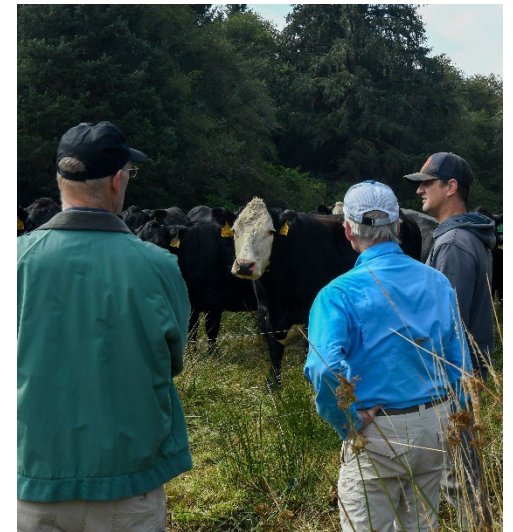


Financial Assistance

Environmental Quality
Incentives Program (EQIP)
Conservation Stewardship
Program (CSP)

Conservation Plans

- Identify producers' objectives and analyze the natural resources concerns on the land
- Include tools and resources customized specifically for each customer, such as:
 - Land use map
 - Soils information
 - Inventory of resources
 - Economic costs and benefits
 - Schedule of recommended practices
 - Maintenance schedules
 - Engineering notes
- Are a voluntary collaboration between the NRCS conservation planner and the customer



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- NRCS' flagship program for helping producers apply conservation practices on their land
- Provides financial and technical assistance to address natural resource concerns
- Benefits include:
 - Improving air, soil and water quality
 - Conserving water
 - Preventing soil erosion
 - Enhancing wildlife habitat
 - Mitigating impacts from climate change
- NRCS accepts applications year-round – Oregon sign-up deadline is usually in November





Oregon's Strategic Approach to Conservation

Oregon NRCS



United States
Department of
Agriculture

About the Strategic Approach

RCPP

Joint Chiefs

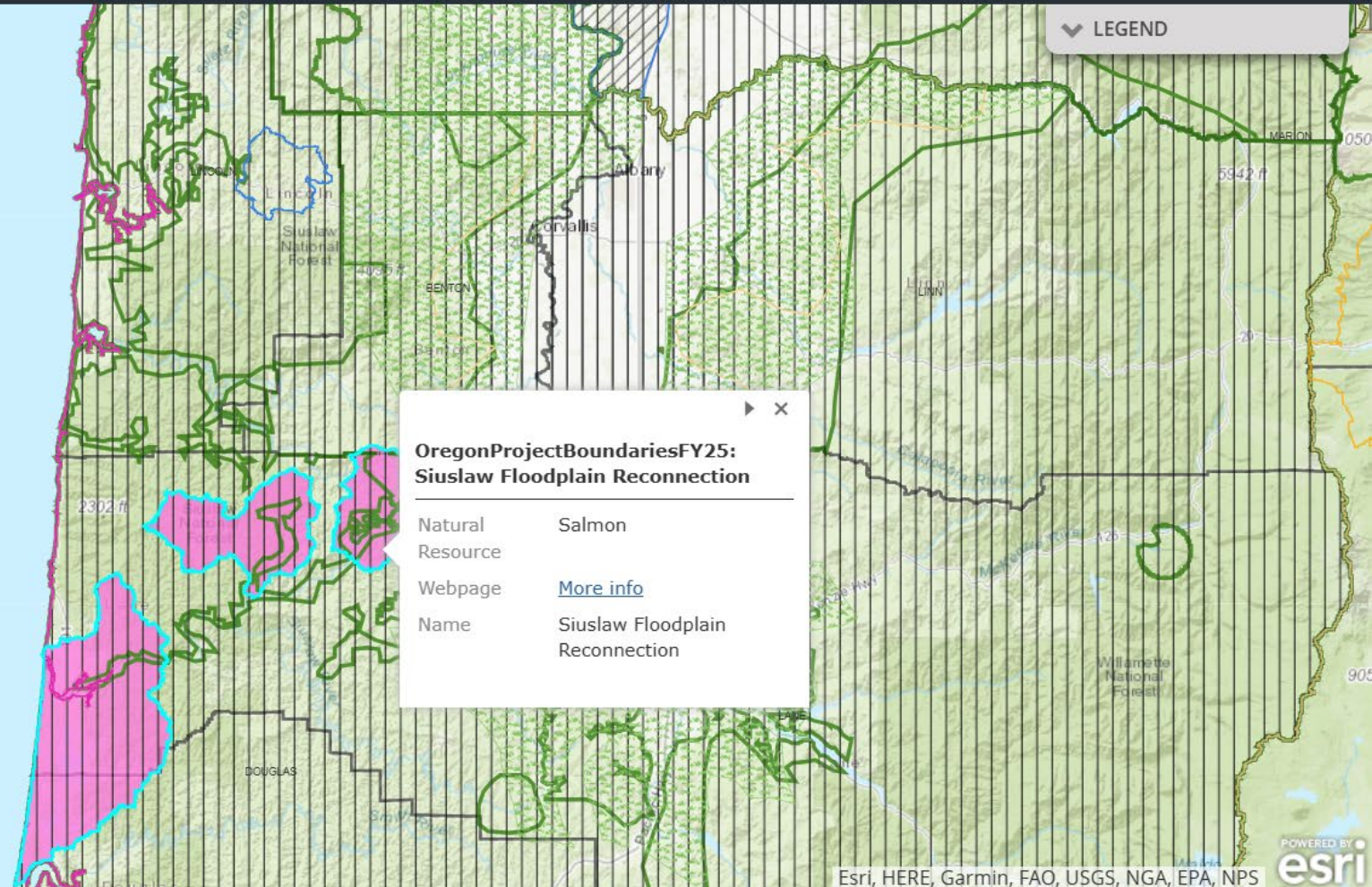
OREGON'S

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO CONSERVATION

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.](#)



[What's Available in My County?](#)

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, representing different conservation implementation strategies. 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)

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Nation's largest conservation program in terms of numbers of acres
- Participants earn annual payments to maintain existing conservation systems and adopt additional enhancements
- Helps producers take their conservation activities to the next level
- 5-year contracts with \$4,000 minimum annual payment
- NRCS accepts applications year-round – Oregon sign-up deadline is usually in early spring



Cropland Practices

- High Tunnel Systems
- Low Tunnel Systems
- Cover Crops
- Crop Rotation
- Mulching
- No-till/Minimum tillage
- Rainwater Catchment for Irrigation
- Hedgerows and Pollinator Plantings



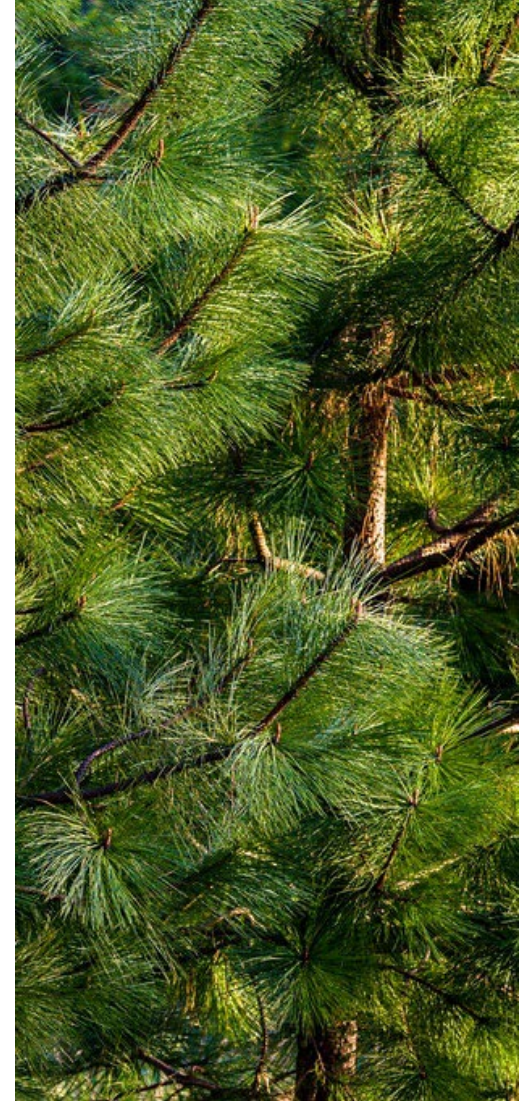
Livestock/Pasture Practices

- Prescribed Grazing
- Fence (riparian & cross-fencing)
- Watering Facilities
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Nutrient Management
- Brush Management
- Pasture Planting
- Composting Facilities



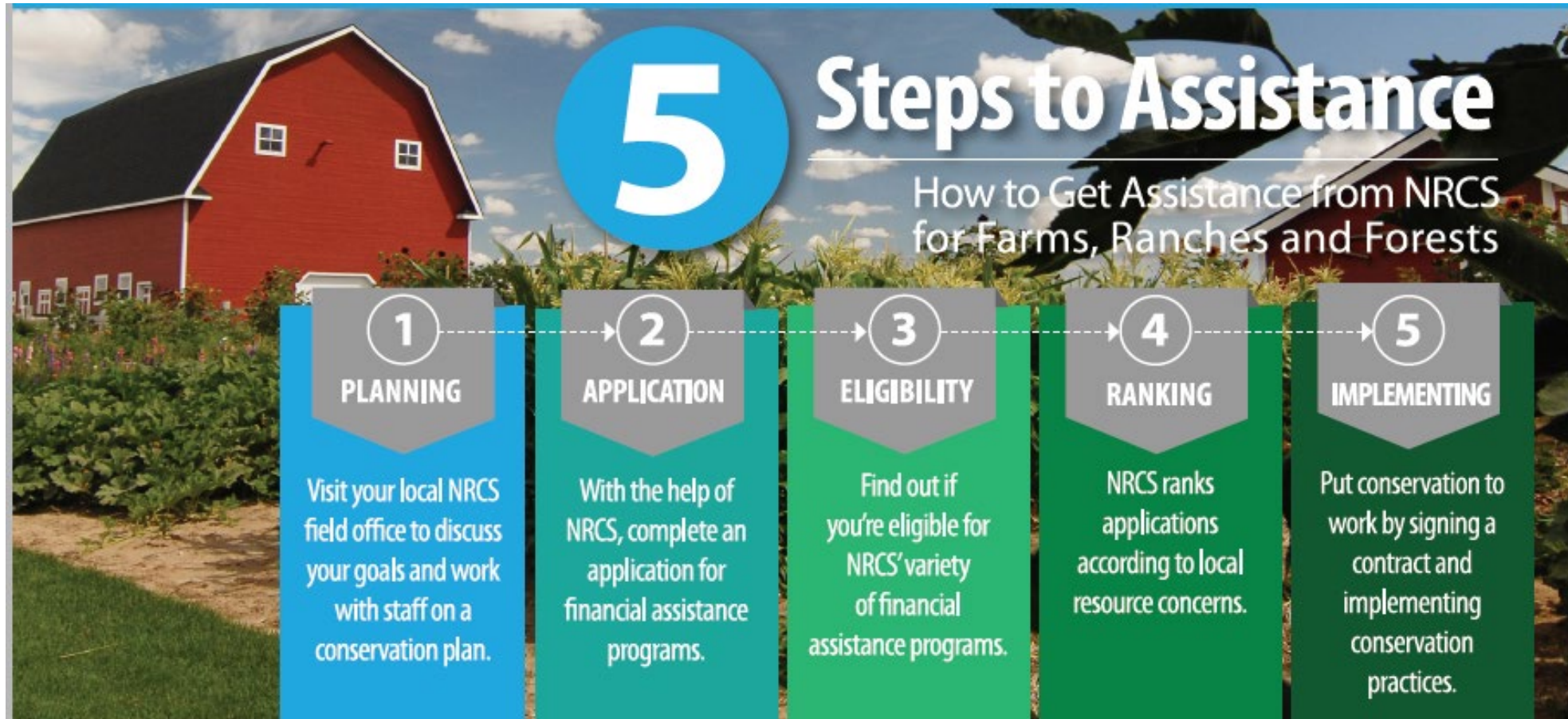
Forestry Practices

- Forest Management Plan
- Pre-commercial Thinning
- Slash Treatment
- Tree/Shrub Site Prep & Establishment
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Conservation Cover (seeding)
- Brush Management (invasive species)
- Structures for Wildlife (brush piles & down log structures)





Step-by-Step Customer Service



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

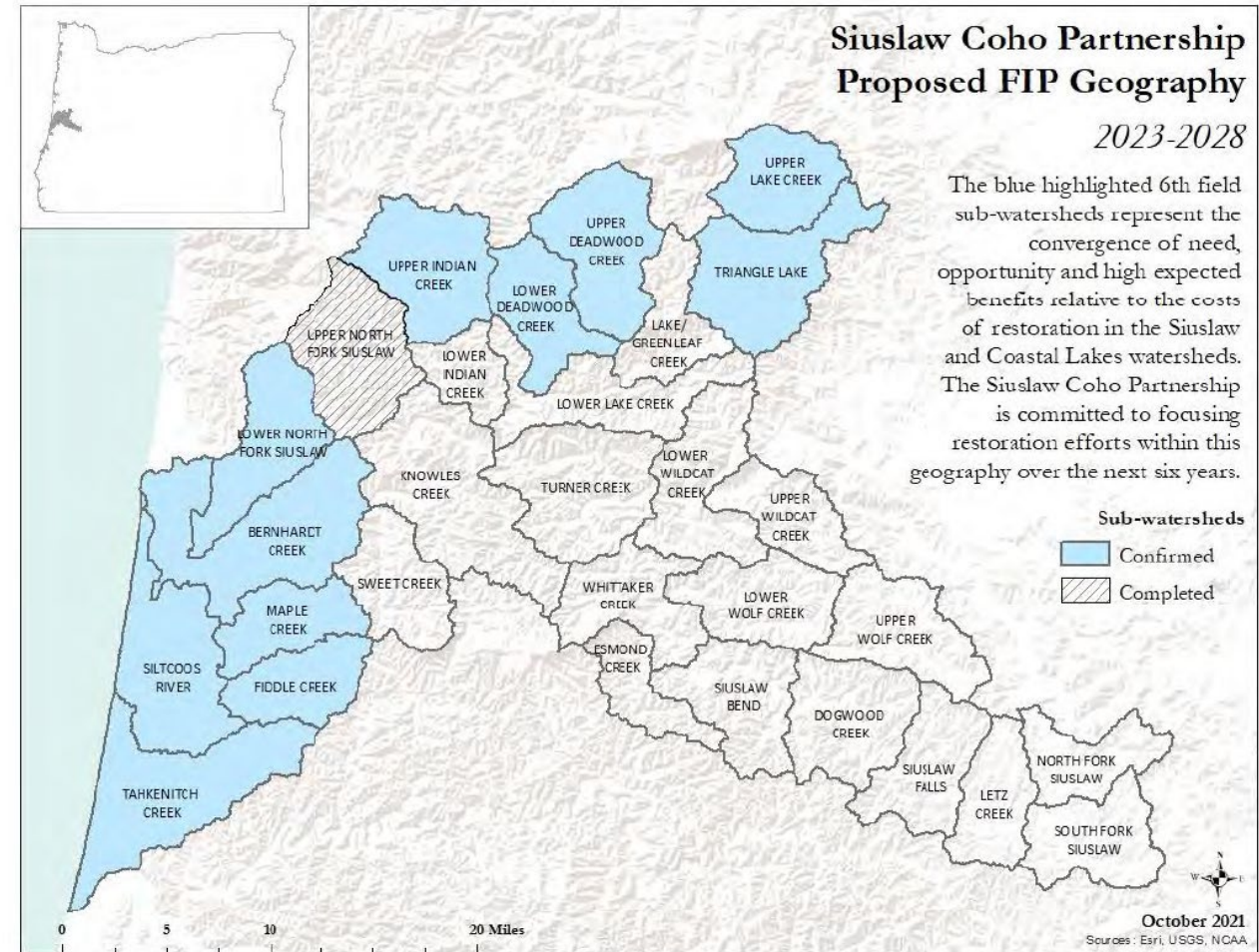
CSP:

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



Siuslaw Floodplain Reconnection CIS (Lane/Douglas)

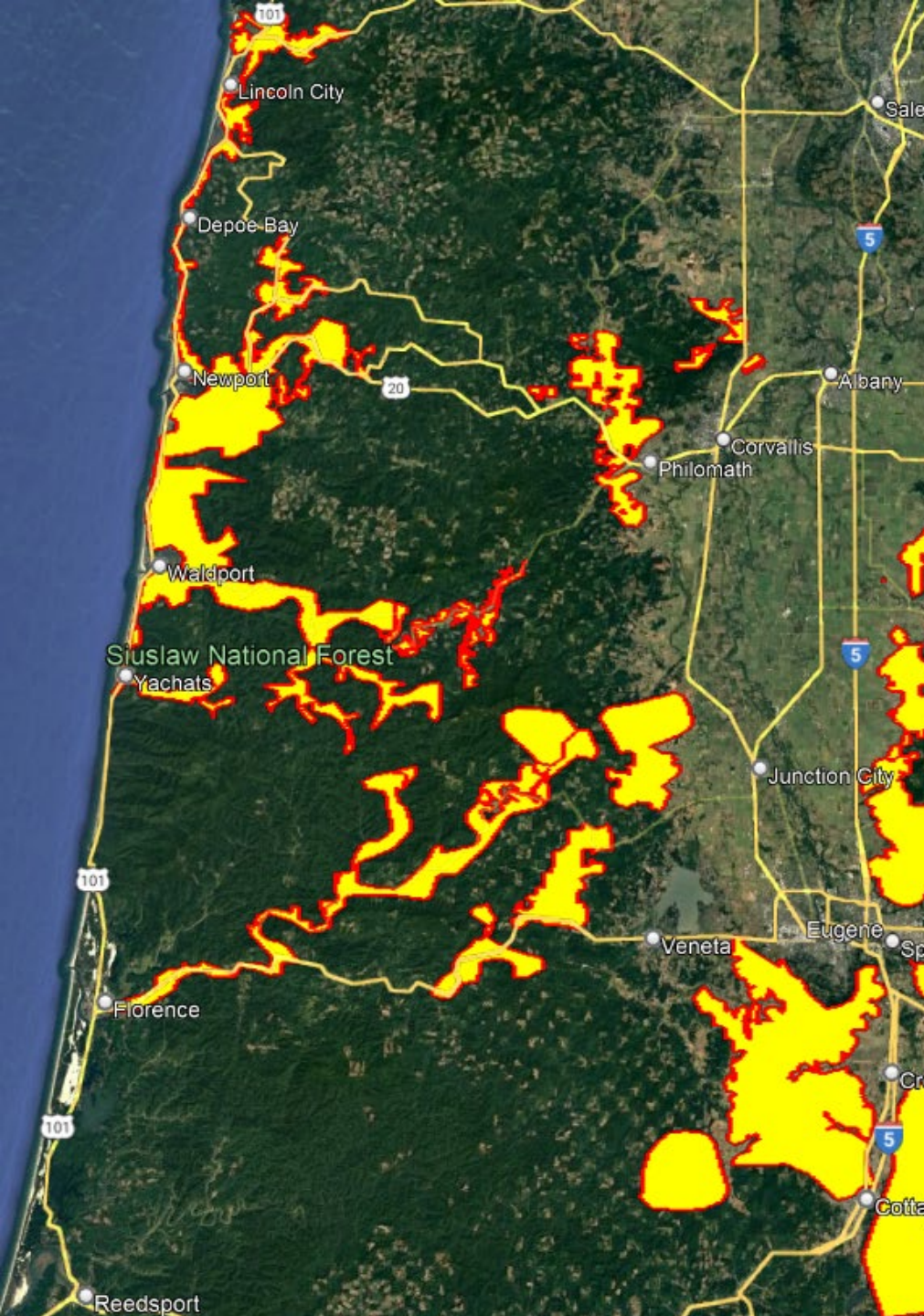
- **Focus Area:** Floodplains & tidal wetlands in 11 priority sub-watersheds in the Siuslaw and coast lakes basins
- **Timeline:** 2023 – 2027
- **Land Uses:** Pasture/Hay, Forest, Associated Ag Lands
- **Priority Resource Concerns:**
 - Aquatic Habitat – Fish Habitat
 - Water Quality – Sediment Transported to Surface Water
 - Degraded Plant Condition – Structure and Composition
- **Investments:**
 - 1 FY23 contract, 1 FY24 contract
 - 18 ac wetland restoration, 44 ac riparian buffer, 14 ac wildlife habitat planting, 36 ac large wood placement in floodplain



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

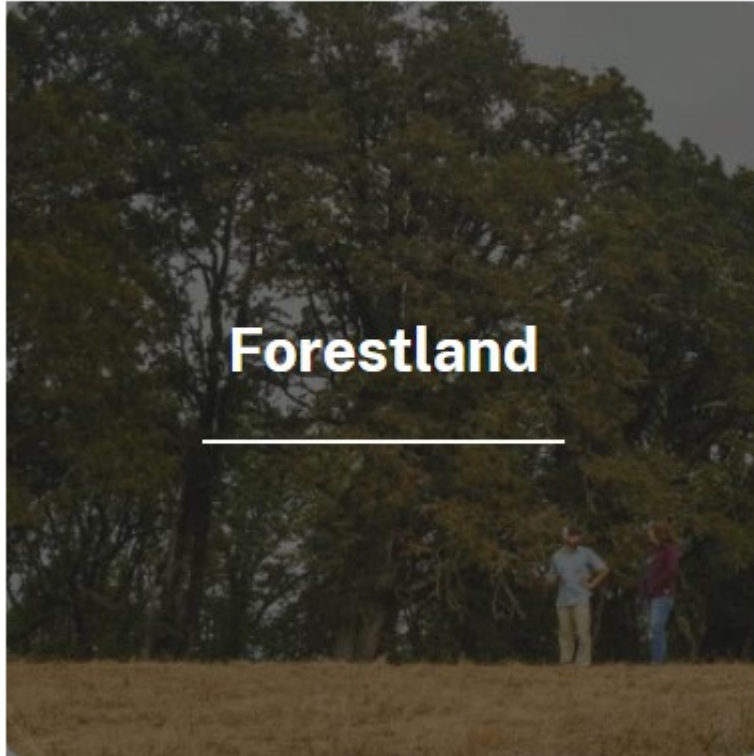




Forest Resistance & Resilience

- **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 (Lincoln)
 - \$115,281 total, 122 ac – Precommercial thinning, slash treatment, structures for wildlife (brush piles, downed large wood), Wildlife Habitat Planting (pollinator meadows)

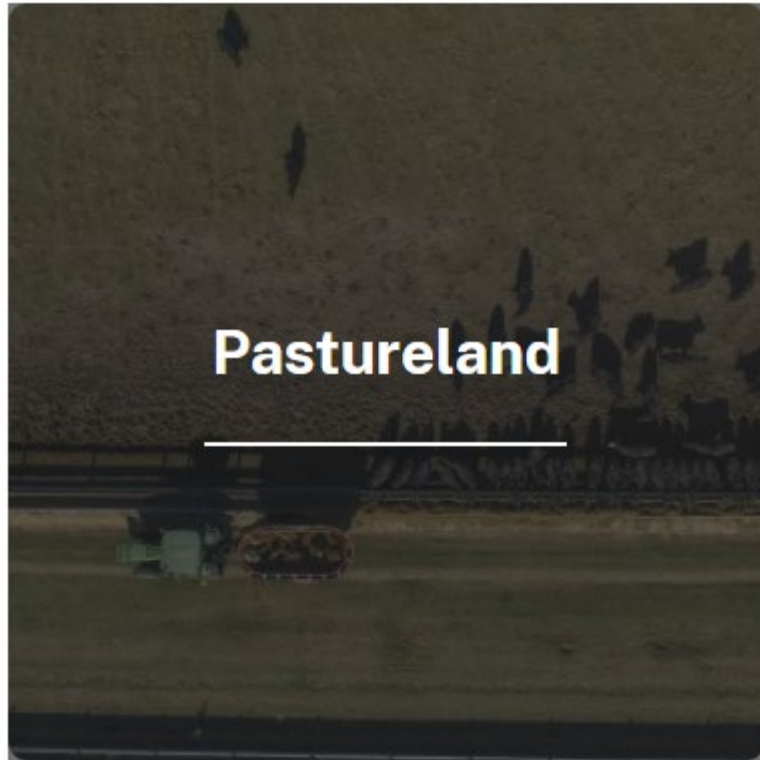
IRA EQIP Projects



Inflation Reduction Act - Forestland

- **Resource Concerns:**
 - Emission of Greenhouse Gases (carbon stocks)
 - Organic Matter Depletion
- **Investments:**
 - 1 FY23 contract
 - 5 FY24 contracts (4 Lane, 1 Lincoln)
 - \$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

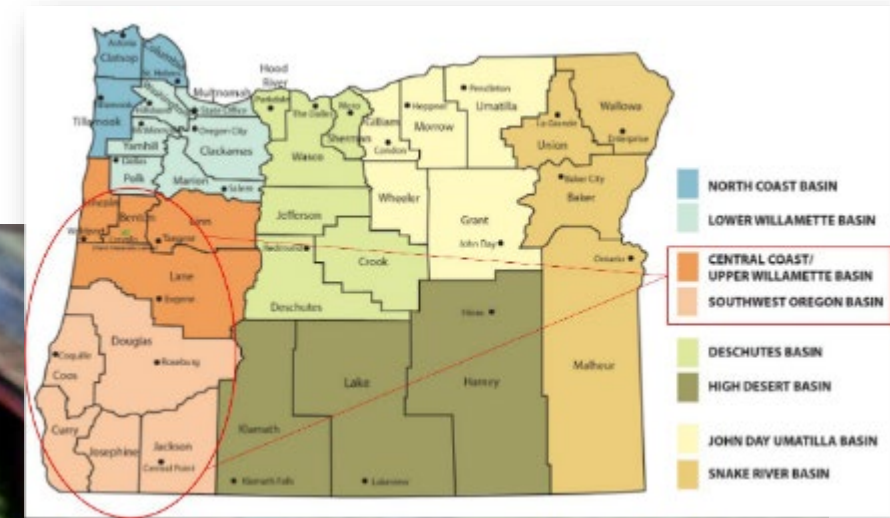


Inflation Reduction Act - Pastureland

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

Local Foods & Food Systems Resilience

- **Goal:** To help rural and urban communities produce fresh and healthy food and other agricultural products locally
- **Timeline:** 2024 – 2026
- **Priority Resource Concerns:**
 - Soil organic matter depletion
 - Plant productivity & health
 - Terrestrial habitat for wildlife & 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
-



Siuslaw Soil & Water Conservation District Updates

Seth Mead

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?**

Lincoln County and Western Lane County
Central Oregon Coast Long Range Plan 2024



Echo Mountain Complex Fires (post fire recovery)



High Tunnel Veggies



Coho-Salmon, NOAA Fisheries

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

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

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