

Lewis and Clark County Local Work Group Agenda
Lambkins in Lincoln
August 11, 2022 12:30 pm

Welcome and instructions—CD

Chris Evans opened the meeting, introductions were made.

In attendance were Jeff Ryan, Karl Christians, David Martin, Connor Mertz, Becky Ayre and Chris Evans. Also in attendance was Patrick Uthe from Fish Wildlife and Parks.

Previous year goals and progress--Becky Ayre, NRCS

PREVIOUS YEAR GOALS AND PROGRESS

2019 Haz Fuels Reduction TIP

- Wolf Creek Area
 - Goal of 486 acres treated from 2019-2023
 - Beginning of FY22 about 120 acres away from goal
 - 289 acres in applications

2022 Dalton Mountain Rd

- Lincoln Area
 - Goal of 800 acres addressed between 2022-2024
 - 128 ac contracted.

2022 Wolf Creek Phase 1

- Wolf Creek area (I-15, Little Wolf Creek Rd, section lines)
 - Goal of 1172 acres treated between 2022-2024
 - 47 acres in applications

NRCS Spending in the county since FY2020

FY2020

- EQIP (15 contracts)-fuel reduction work
 - Joint Chiefs, 2019 TIP \$542,000

FY2021

- EQIP (1 contract) Fuel reduction
- TIP \$129,000

CSP (3 contracts)

- \$339,000

CSP-GCI (2 Contracts)

- \$20,000

FY2022-Applications

- EQIP

- High Tunnel (5)
- Fuel Reductions (12)
- 3 different active TIPs

Practices

- 666,660, 383,384,315—all fuel reduction work through county
- 340,590,528, pollinator plantings—common in CSP
- High Tunnel (some IWM, 590, micro irrigation)

Practices most common through county the last few years

Becky said that there is interest in the American Bar, Eldorado Bar areas, York Area and Sieben Ranch area for brush management.

Overview and Purpose of meeting—Becky Ayre, NRCS

Local work group meetings are supposed to gather input from others in the county, and agency people who work in the county, to assist in directing how program dollars are directed by NRCS. The input is also used by the Conservation District to help us prioritize our resources and determine where we can fill gaps that NRCS funding doesn't reach.

New or changes in funding—NRCS Priorities—CD—Becky isn't aware of any upcoming changes. Interest and applications: 20 for forestry mostly in the Wolf Creek area, as people see work getting done, some in Augusta and North Hills and the Eldorado and American Bar and York area, a few in Rimini, Lincoln and Birdseye areas as well as the Dalton Mountain area; 5 high tunnel apps, 9 irrigation apps; one wildlife app; last few months a few apps in pasture and stock water work. Jeff Ryan asked what Concentrated Erosion meant. Becky said that is gully erosion.

Participants identify local problems in general—Patrick said that FWP's priority is water quality, fish habitat and connectivity. Increasing late season in-stream flow is always a priority.

Evans asked about the "call" on irrigation water. Patrick said that they have a drought response plan that's tied to the Murphy Law. So, they do make calls on the irrigators. It has a 700 CFS trigger, they work with junior water users to shield them from the 500-700 CFS on conservation plans. Water is the main concern identified by FWP in this area. Bull trout is still a major species that FWP is focused on. Monture, Landers, Copper and North Fork are the main strongholds of the species.

Evans asked about the effect of fire on Bull Trout. The Snow Talon fire seemed to have beneficial impact on the bull trout. The Rice Ridge fire however had enough landslides and debris flows which were detrimental to the bull trout in that area. That probably had to do with timing of the sediment load in response to spawning.

Grazing management can be something that we could look at working toward that would benefit fisheries habitat.

Becky said that the office is starting to get more regular calls from the Lincoln and Augusta areas.

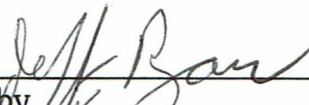

Weeds are always a concern.

Evans will consult with Supervisor Jeanette Nordahl about any resource concerns that she may be hearing about.

Jeff asked if FWP has any active or planned stream restoration projects. Patrick said that Ryen Neudecker has been talking with the county to do another crossing upgrade on Poorman Creek. They're looking at possibility of upgrades on Dalton Mountain Road and Heron Creek Road. Connor asked if the country road crossings are an easy one to hit that's beneficial. Uthe said a lot of the higher priority crossings had been done in the past 30 years, and they're chipping away at the rest.

Becky said that office staff were in the Lincoln area for forest disease training. They mentioned at the training that with the lack of fire, disease has moved in. There's a lot of dead standing and overstocking. The western mountain pine beetle has had a bit of an outbreak on the west side of the Divide. The other beetle is the Yps beetle. Also, a mistletoe infestation.

Review and close-The meeting concluded at 1:15 pm.

Approved by		9/8/22
		Date
Recorded by		9/8/22
		Date