

Drought Resiliency for Jefferson County Agriculture (“Ag Drought Group”)

Meeting #6 = Confirm Vision/Mission, Review Drought Matrix

Monday, April 3 6, 2023; 1-3pm

Vision: Jefferson County agriculture will thrive by adapting successfully to drought, and will support its people, animals, economy, environment, and culture.

Group Mission: to help agriculture create a sustainable, livable future for Jefferson County by adapting successfully to drought with support from Deschutes Basin stakeholders. We promote innovative solutions to proactively improve watershed health and increase the effective management of water.

I. Participants

Albert Sikkens (Pratum)
Bill Atherton (landowner)
Brad Klann (JCSWCD Board & producer)
Chris Gannon (CRWC)
Collin Cowsill (NRCS)
Craig Weigand (JCSWCD Board & producer)
Elaine Cornick (Culver citizen)

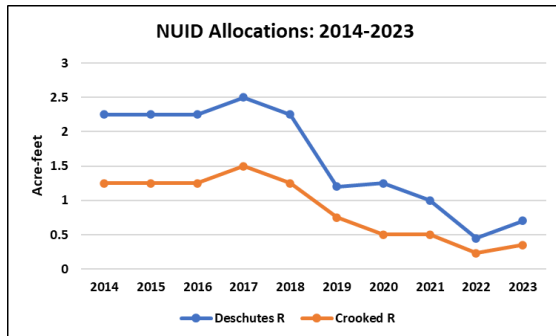
Ellen Hammond (JCSWCD)
Jim McNamee (producer)
Lloyd Forman (JCSWCD Board & producer)
Rob Galyen (JCSWCD Board & producer)
Scott Klopp (Helena)
Tom Osborne (BPA)
Trevor Derstine (producer)

II. Mission

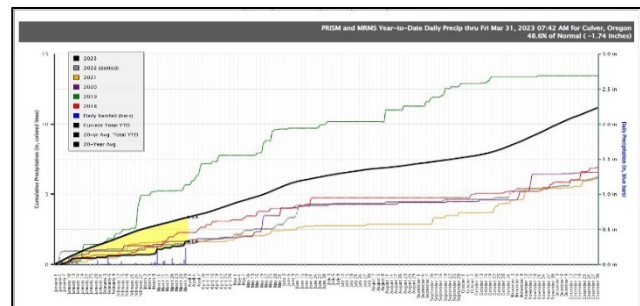
Group agreed to stay with above vision and mission that includes all of JeffCo Ag

III. More Data

A. 2023 NUID allocation = 0.7 A-f from Deschutes River, 0.35 from Crooked.



B. Cumulative annual rainfall at Culver in last 20 years. Thick black line is 20-year average. Jagged black line is 2023 so far, about half of average (yellow shading) (<https://ag-wx.com/meteograms/sites/11737.html>).



C. Oregon Water Conditions Report from OWRD (monthly): sign up at [Oregon Water Resources Department \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com/)

IV. DRAFT Drought Matrix

A. Comments

The Group commented on the Goals, Tools, Challenges, and Opportunities. These comments are captured in Matrix updates and below:

1. JeffCo ag is not asking to remove more water above Bend; we are trying to leave it in and divert it downstream in JeffCo.
2. Opposition from some Deschutes Basin stakeholders is due to philosophical differences and to public misperceptions.
3. Groundwater: Are JeffCo aquifers mapped? What is the ability for aquifer recharge? Can we dig wells and use them during drought, but recharge groundwater when more water is available?

4. Consider carbon credits as incentive for both cropland and rangeland.
5. Connect with OSU. We don't want to duplicate their work; we want to connect people to OSU and help drive OSU's research.
6. Do we know how much people in the Deschutes Basin even value ag?
7. Does NRCS have requirements for cover cropping seeds for their programs?
8. Helpful to know in advance when growers could get reimbursed for cover cropping so they can plan!
9. Could berries be an alternative crop in JeffCo?
10. Need more incentives to ameliorate the risk to growers of trying new ag practices/products.
11. Diversifying to grow niche products can easily flood the local market.

B. Prioritization

1. The Group tried to rate each tool based on Likelihood of Success, which had mixed success due to ambiguity of the concept and conflating too many concepts into that one column. Ellen will be redoing this column!
2. Regardless, we sorted the matrix on Likelihood of Success to see what floated to the top: RULE CHANGE TO ALLOW WATER TRANSFERS AMONG IRRIGATION DISTRICTS, EFFICIENT IRRIGATION, COVER CROPS, POND CREATION AND MAINTENANCE, RANGELAND MANAGEMENT.

V. Other Priorities

- A. **Inventory all the actions and investment amounts** that have occurred in the last 20 years to increase water use efficiency, shift crop types, increase water retention, and re-use tailwater resources should be an action step.
- B. **Catalog all the ag products** produced in Jefferson County and provide a tight summary for public consumption.
- C. **Ellen's ToDo list (in the short-term)**
 1. Find out if JeffCo aquifers have been mapped. Suggestion to contact Hank Johnson at USGS.
 2. Find out recommendations for NRCS seeds for cover cropping. Done
 3. Get cover crop recommendations from Clare Sullivan (former COAREC Superintendent). Done
 4. Find out about OSU Annual Study with crops and values....

Next Meeting = May 1, 1-3pm at Madras Airport