

Jefferson County Agricultural Drought Resiliency Group

ODFW Guest Speaker, update on Plan implementation
Thursday, February 22, 2023; noon-2pm (lunch provided)

ATTACHMENTS: NRCS CIS, REAP, RIVERS PPT

www.jeffswcd.org/managing-for-drought

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.

Role of Group: track and guide progress towards Vision and Mission

Participants

Ally Steinmetz (MDWC)
Becky Anthony (ODFW)
Brad Klann (producer)
Chris Gannon (CRWC)
Chris Handy (NRCS)*
Chris Toman (OSU)
Craig Weigand (producer)
David Phipps (NRCS)
Elaine Cornick (Culver citizen)
Ellen Hammond (JCSWCD)
Gen Hubert (DRC)
Gordon Jones (OSU Ext)
Heidi Hartman (OWEB)
Jim McNamee (producer)

Lanier Fussell (Wy'East)*
Lisa Seales (DRC)
Leroy Buck (producer)*
Lloyd Forman (producer)
Lori Campbell (PGE)
Maria Snodgrass (ODA)
Michael Kluz (Wy'East)*
Rob Galyen (JCSWCD Board & farmer)
Scott Duggan (OSU Ext)
Scotty Samsel (JCSWCD Board & farmer)
Staci Merkt (JCSWCD)
Tim Porter (ODFW)*
Trevor Derstine (producer)

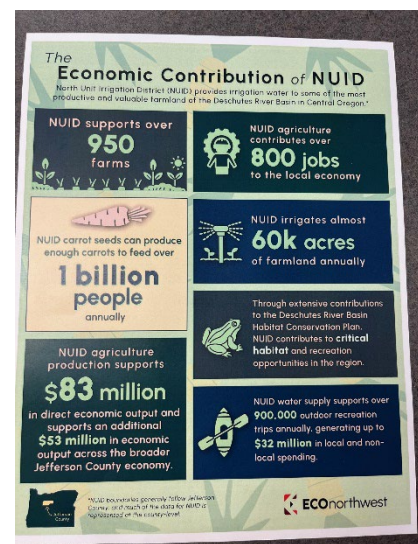
*New participants in the Quarterly Meetings

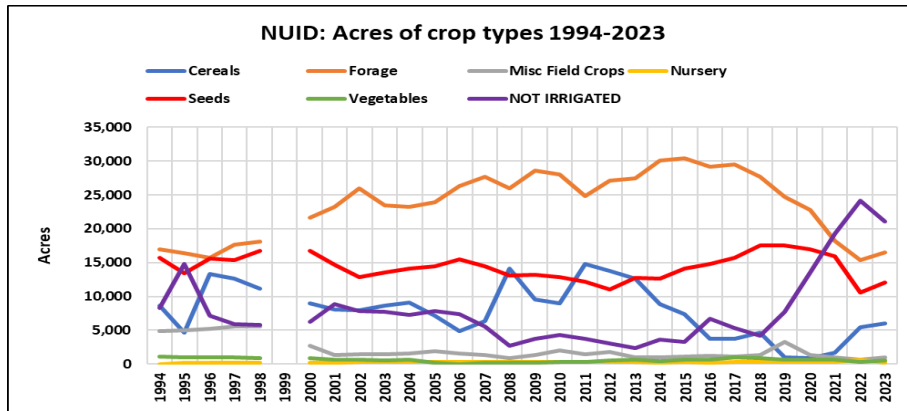
I. Data:

A. NUID Economic Study tidbits! The whole study will be out shortly, but this was provided at Farm Fair

B. NUID Crop Reports (1994-2023)

At the request of the Croplands Workgroup, Ellen is analyzing the crop report data from NUID, which is collected from farmers by ditch riders at the end of the irrigation season. The data have detailed acres for each crop grown that year, but she just presented the summary at this Quarterly meeting.





II. Guest Speaker: What the rivers need (Tim Porter, ODFW)

Tim provided an overview of the factors that influence river flows and characteristics (see attached). Question about the effects of beaver dams; Tim responded that beaver dams are porous and temporary, unlike manmade dams.

The bottom line for Jefferson County is that:

- Deschutes River needs more flow at the right times above Bend
- Trout and Willow Creeks need more flow at the right times and better morphology (narrower and deeper to reduce heating, access to floodplains, slower velocity, vegetated banks, etc.)

III. Workgroups

1. Water Availability

a. Current Focus Tools

- i. Pumping from LBC = Appraisal and Economic studies are almost complete. NUID is trying to get \$5 million for the Feasibility Study.
- ii. Piping Upper Basin IDs = all IDs except Swalley are currently piping; Swalley project held up at the moment. Ellen submitted 2 letters of support for COID and AID piping to OWRD.
- iii. Piping NUID: in progress

2. Croplands

a. Current Focus Tools

Croplands group is starting to dive into these Tools, with the next meeting on Feb 29. They are learning what has been grown in the past and also discussing metrics to show current status and changes.

- i. Diversify crops = Trying to figure out 1) can we grow it and 2) can we sell it?
- ii. Increase irrigation efficiency = Two aspects: 1) the irrigation systems themselves and 2) management of the systems. Because of the high cost of upgrading irrigation systems, it would be helpful to 'stack' funding sources, for instance, adding REAP funding to help with costs (see attached).
- iii. Cover cropping = many crops have multiple benefits, both short-term and long-term

b. Other

- i. NRCS' North Unit Soil Health and Sustainability Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS). **See attached!** Practices address both irrigation efficiency and cover cropping. It is challenging to prioritize projects when there are more requests than available funding, and a pivot costs \$100-200K. NRCS is talking with the SWCD and Croplands Group about metrics and monitoring.
- ii. NRCS Local Work Group meeting: tell NRCS what you think their priorities should be. February 29, 9-11, Madras City Hall.

3. Ranchlands

a. Current Focus Tools

- i. Bundling juniper control with reseeding, weed control, and periodic burning
 - 1. Current focus: mapping known juniper projects so the Workgroup can get a picture of where and work was done and is being planned. **Ellen will contact Gordon for ideas on remote sensing. Ellen will contact Jerry Ramsey about work done in the early 70s.**
 - ii. Targeted grazing to increase forage
 - 1. Virtual fencing is one potential tool. Research and experiments are on the increase. OWEB recently funded virtual fencing in far Eastern Oregon; **Ellen will follow up.**
 - iii. Vegetated streambanks
 - 1. Ellen and Ally working with ODA on how to assess conditions
 - iv. Reconnecting streams to floodplains
 - 1. For instance, BDAs (beaver dam analogues)
- b. Other: Workgroup will meet in the next month or so.

4. Agrivoltaics

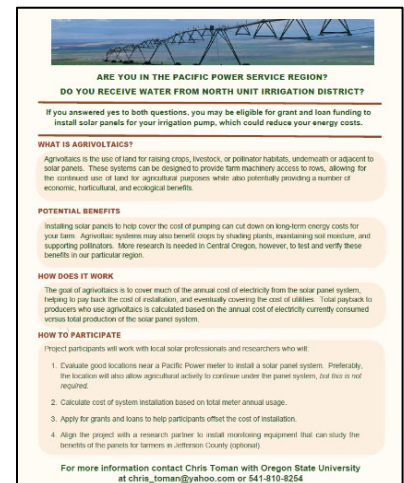
- a. **Flyer:** distributed at Farm Fair and emailed to landowners. Also available at COAREC and NUID front counters.

5. General Public Outreach

a. Current Focus Tools

i. Videos

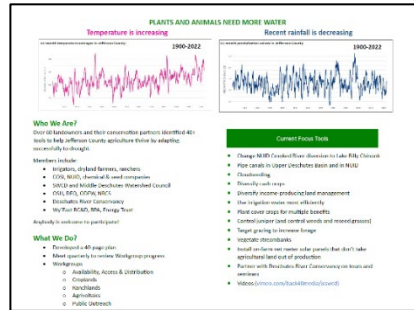
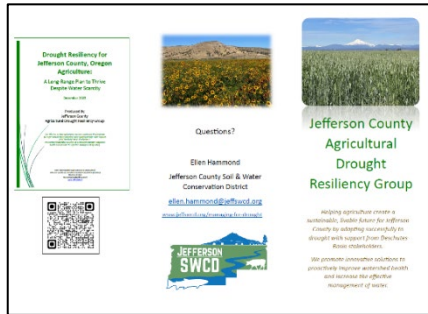
- 1. 6-minute: vimeo.com/back40media/jcswcd
- 2. 2 3-minutes: vimeo.com/back40media/jcswcd2 & vimeo.com/back40media/jcswcd3
- 3. 5 1-minute proposed videos:
 - a. Food and Food Production, Sports, Wildflowers & Native Land Restoration, Families & Communities, Piping to resolve high losses in conveyance systems, River Stewardship
 - b. Ideas for funders: **Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Women for Agriculture, Wildhorse Foundation (Umatilla Tribes), Jefferson County, OWEB Small Grant (?), JeffCo Seed Growers**



(Ellen send info to Craig Weigand)

- ii. Logo = on hold until Ellen has time
- iii. Flyers = 2 produced so far by the SWCD with helpful edits from Collin, Lisa Seales, and Elaine!

1. Farm Fair trifold



2. General public trifold



- iv. Responses to misinformation in the media

1. Ellen submitted a Bend Bulletin Editorial from the SWCD in response to inaccurate information about canal piping and Jefferson County agriculture, but it wasn't printed. The Bulletin has printed editorials by others in support of piping, so that market is likely saturated right now. [Ellen will try to post the editorial as a response on the Bulletin website.](#)
2. Ellen talked with Allison Frost with OPB about JeffCo ag and will bring copies of the public trifold to the March 1 Think Out Loud event.

IV. Moving Forward

1. Funding update: no change, still charging to ODA's general AgWQ funding to SWCDs. Looking at OWEB Engagement Grants and Oregon Community Foundation for potential funding.
2. Drought Plan available at: www.jeffswcd.org/managing-for-drought

V. Next Group Meeting (May)

1. May 7, 8, or 9; noon -2; lunch provided
2. Location: [try Public Health Community Room again.](#) Collin will troubleshoot their AV equipment!
3. Guest speaker = David Bohnert (EOAREC) and maybe the guy from Washington. [Scott Duggan will invite David.](#)