

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

Meeting #4 = Continuation of Vision, Solutions

Monday, March 6, 2023; 1-3pm

Jefferson County Public Health Community Room (east of St. Charles hospital), 500 NE A St, Madras

video = <https://meet.goto.com/550544629>

phone = (571) 317-3122 Access Code: 550-544-629

*If you have trouble accessing Go To Meeting, call Ellen at 541-771-8258*

Facilitated by the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

### Agenda

#### **1pm Introductions**

New members! Gordon Jones (Southern Oregon Ag Research and Extension Center), Lloyd Forman (landowner), Bill Atherton (landowner)

**1:10 Purpose of Group** = identify feasible things to do to help Jefferson County ag thrive in spite of drought. The end result is a plan that identifies 1) tools to help JeffCo ag be successful, 2) challenges to implementing them, 3) priorities to work on, and 4) next steps for working on those priorities.

- Ellen’s VERY DRAFT matrix (not attached but will be shown at meeting)
- Workgroup needed to flesh it out
- Funding the Group after June 30, 2023

**1:20 More data (see end)**

**1:25 Vision and Mission**

*“Vision: Jefferson County agriculture will thrive by adapting successfully to ~~climate variability~~ drought, and supports its people, animals, economy, environment, and culture.”*

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

*Discuss:*

- 1. should we just go back to ‘drought’?*
- 2. ‘ag’ or ‘ag businesses’?*
- 3. ‘watershed health’ or ‘soil health’ or ??*
- 4. ‘management’ instead of ‘use’*

**1:35 Legislative stuff**

1. Governor’s drought declaration
2. SB 5561: emergency drought funds
  - a. NUID would get \$5.5 million
  - b. OWEB would get 1.1 million for “grants for drought resiliency projects in Jefferson County”
  - c. JCSWCD would get 3 million “to support stewardship practices on irrigated land that is at high risk for erosion and soil degradation, and to limit proliferation of noxious and invasive weeds”
3. HB 2998: Soil Health = supports voluntary actions that improve soil health.
  - JCSWCD supports it, so does the Drought Group. Ellen testified in favor.
4. SB 530: Natural Climate Solutions = provides funding for voluntary actions that capture carbon.

- JCSWCD supports, so does Drought Group.
5. SB 58: tells OWRD to investigate cloud seeding for Oregon
    - NUID supports it, so does Drought Group. Not brought before JCSWCD Board yet.
  6. HB3142: supports juniper eradication in central/southern Oregon
    - Supported by JCSWCD. SWCD staff testified in favor.

**1:50 Moving forward on immediate needs**

1. How to inform non-JeffCoAg stakeholders about JeffCo ag?

- outreach plan with key messages etc by April 15
- workgroup

2. How to disseminate info (e.g. webinars, workshops, flyers, websites, etc.) to land managers?

- webpage on SWCD site, new website ("JeffCoAg"?), email distribution list, ??????
- outreach plan by April 15
- workgroup

**2:45 Other tools**

- carbon credits?
- 

**2:55 Next steps**

**Next Meeting = April 2, 1-3pm AT AIRPORT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Graph created by Kyle Gorman (OWRD)

Annual rainfall averages 22" per year. In the last 22 years, we should have received 484' of rain (22" x 22 years) at Wickiup Reservoir. Instead, we have received 70" less over that time.

