

# Notes

## West Palouse Local Work Group Work Session WA Association of Wheat Growers, 109 East 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Ritzville January 31, 2017 – 9:00 am to noon

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### Session Objective:

- Review Farm Bill accomplishments and updates, review natural resource data, including the most prevalent natural resource conservation issues to be addressed in the LWG area with various federal and state programs in FY18.

### Local Work Group & STAC Updates

- State initiatives still reducing available funding for each of the 10 LWGs
- STAC kickoff meeting to occur in the next few months
- Opportunity for Special Initiatives and Regional Conservation Partnership Program applications
- FY17 EQIP deadline 2.17.17 & 4.21.17 on sage grouse
- EQIP to treat resource concerns
- National deadline 2.3.17 for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Beginning Farmer can apply for any of the programs...this LWG have many entities...less beginning farmers
- See Ann handouts

### Farm Bill Program Accomplishments & Applications

- See Ann Handouts
- Wildlife projects...under EQIP need to identify a resource concern
- Livestock watering...rangeland distribution for plant health

### Natural Resource Conservation Priorities

Resource Conservation Priority	Projects / Practices
Soil erosion xxxx (wind & water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any reduced tillage practices</li><li>• Working Buffers and windbreaks</li><li>• Cover crops</li><li>• Continuation of programs such as CRP on most erodible soils</li><li>• Variable rate irrigation on steeper soils</li></ul>
Water Use xxxx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhanced soil monitoring for soil water, irrigation effectiveness</li><li>• Odessa Ground Water replacement program – RCPP application</li><li>• Water availability for livestock</li><li>• Cover cropping</li><li>• Variable rate irrigation</li><li>• LESA &amp; LEPA to apply less water and achieving less erosion</li><li>• Prescriptions for water use...in an area...targeted savings together</li><li>• End guns removed...lack of efficiency</li><li>• GMOs – crops that use less water</li><li>• Crop rotation adjustment</li></ul>

Wildfire xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel reduction – thinning, pruning, slash disposal...not just forest</li> <li>• Defensible space practices</li> <li>• Range health</li> <li>• Forest health</li> <li>• Reseeding...post fire treatments</li> <li>• Education on wildfire and treatments</li> <li>• Firewise program</li> <li>• Prescribed burning</li> <li>• Wheat field burning precautions</li> <li>• Fuel breaks</li> <li>• Billboards about wildfire</li> </ul>
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See fire related practices</li> <li>• Oil dirt and gravel roads</li> <li>• See soil erosion practices above</li> <li>• Reducing tillage &amp; related cost share to address risk</li> <li>• Cover crops</li> <li>• Keep CRP or CRP (like) acres in for vegetative cover</li> </ul>
Range Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livestock water facilities</li> <li>• Cross fencing</li> <li>• Grazing management</li> <li>• Weed management</li> <li>• Rangeland seeding</li> </ul>
Wildlife Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase CRP acres</li> <li>• Perennial cropping system</li> <li>• Roadside fuel breaks</li> <li>• Buffers and wind breaks</li> <li>• Rehydration of lakes</li> <li>• Guzzlers</li> <li>• Plantings – shrub and trees</li> <li>• Corridor plantings</li> <li>• Native habitat restoration</li> <li>• Food plots</li> <li>• Riparian &amp; wetland plantings</li> <li>• Reduce wildfire frequency</li> <li>• Grazing management</li> <li>• Forest management</li> </ul>
Forest Health xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest management</li> <li>• Tree thinning and pruning</li> <li>• Prescribed fire</li> <li>• Forest stewardship plans</li> </ul>
Energy Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variable Speed drives</li> <li>• See irrigation practices above</li> <li>• Using smart, new equipment</li> <li>• Farmers knowledgeable about latest technology</li> <li>• Windbreaks</li> <li>• Reduced tillage – fuel usage</li> <li>• Having someone on hand to explain the available programs for energy conservation</li> <li>• End gun removal or replacement with new technology</li> </ul>

## Projects & Practices to Address Resource Conservation Priorities

See above listing for each resource concern

### Land Use / Resource Concern Pools – FY18 USDA Programs

Resource Conservation Priority	Land Use	Pool %	Estimated Acres of Treatment FY18	Watershed Area
<b>Soil Erosion – Sheet, Rill &amp; Wind</b>	<b>Cropland</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1000</b> (\$xx estimate)	
<b>Insufficient Water</b> Inefficient use of irrigation water	<b>Cropland</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>250</b> (\$ xx estimate)	
<b>Degraded Plant Condition</b> Undesirable plant productivity & health or inadequate water for domestic animals & wildland fire considerations	<b>Rangeland</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>400</b> (\$xx estimate)	
<b>Degraded Plant Condition</b> Undesirable plant productivity & health & wildland fire	<b>Forestland</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>70</b> (\$xx estimate)	Forest land acreage
<b>Other</b> INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE-Habitat Degradation	<b>All Lands</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>35</b> (xx estimate)	
		<b>100</b>		
<b>Initiatives</b>				
			<b>Acres</b>	

#### Rollover on Pools:

- If funds left from any funding pool use, to fund next project that would mitigate or address wildland fire in any category (highest scoring)
- If funds left, then fund the next application that can be funded in entirety (DC discretion)

#### Notes: (from discussion)

- Air quality (in all above) from state pool
- Energy application from state pool
- Can we apply fire in all not just forestry...eg wildlife habitat, cropland, rangeland?
- Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program as special initiative and/or RCPP
- Increase emphasis on wildland fire prevention
- Include other special projects from past LWG report
- Should we consider a technology pool?

#### Next Steps & Closing Comments & Adjourn

- Energy funds (16% in FY17)...split equally between irrigation - inefficient use of water (8%) & soil erosion (8%)
- Small team for questions, practices, points...one day in mid-March...Josh, Sean, Alison, Cara
- STAC representation (Jeff)