

# Notes

## West Palouse Local Work Group Work Session

Public Works Building, 27234 SR 25 N - Davenport, WA

March 10, 2015 – 8:00 am to Noon

### Session Objective:

- Review FY14 Farm Bill accomplishments and FY15 applications, 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 FY16.

### Natural Resource Conservation Priorities & Programs & Projects to Address Resource Conservation Priorities

Resource Conservation Priority	Projects / Programs
Cropland moisture retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No-till, limited till</li><li>• Cover crops, compost</li><li>• Grass waterways</li><li>• Terraces</li></ul>
Water quantity & conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with no agriculture users of water</li><li>• Engage in more open discussion about water quantity and conservation – domestic and ag related</li><li>• Irrigation automation projects while analyzing the yield data and economic payback – especially south Lincoln County, Adams County also</li></ul>
Soil Erosion – wind and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CRP takeout – get rebid in without tearing out trees and existing plantings that are still functioning – talk with FSA about rule</li><li>• Fencing around CRP lands – idea of grazing after takeout and not reenrolled</li><li>• Plant degradation improvement – rangeland plantings, livestock management, water supply for grazing</li><li>• SAFE program rules applied for natural tree establishment</li><li>• Find a way to work with the late and non-adopters to work with us on soil health</li><li>• Promote more among all producer groups to reinvigorate our programs</li><li>• CRP options for grazing</li><li>• Equipment introduction of new technology for conservation – establish a coop to make available</li></ul>

Energy Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment updates including variable rate irrigation</li> <li>• Equipment introduction</li> </ul>
Soil Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Soil Health Committee to promote soil health – WA Soil Health website</li> <li>• Push agencies to promote and fund projects for soil health activities</li> <li>• Sort out what is real and not for working on soil health</li> <li>• Develop cover crops that work in our area</li> </ul>
Economic base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve the economic base on agricultural lands</li> <li>• Voluntary Stewardship Program</li> <li>• Look at ways to bring back younger people to our rural communities</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Wildfire hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal, state, Cons District multi-agency coordination</li> </ul>
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get deer out of my yard...stop eating desirable plants</li> <li>• Predator issues with livestock</li> <li>• Sage grouse habitat...Habitat Conservation Plan and Candidate Conservation with Assurances...finalize a plan that can keep the sage grouse off ESA...voluntary plans...technical assistance with producers to implement plans</li> <li>• Wetland expansion and nesting habitat projects</li> </ul>
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road related dust</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

**Actions:**

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**Farm Bill Program FY14 Accomplishments & FY15 Applications**

- See presentation

**Watershed Priorities:**

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**Land Use / Resource Concern Pools**

See Excel spreadsheet

**Rollover of Funds among Pools**

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**Next Steps**

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## Land Use / Resource Concern Pools - USDA Programs

Resource Conservation Priority	Land Use	Pool %	Estimated Acres of Treatment FY15	Watershed Area
<b>Soil Erosion – Sheet, Rill &amp; Wind</b>	<b>Cropland</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3000</b> (\$150,000 estimate)	
<b>Insufficient Water</b> Inefficient use of irrigation water	<b>Cropland</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>480</b> (\$100,000 estimate)	
<b>Degraded Plant Condition</b> Undesirable plant productivity & health	<b>Rangeland</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4000</b> (\$xx estimate)	
<b>Degraded Plant Condition</b> Undesirable plant productivity & health	<b>Forestland</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>90</b> (\$75,000 estimate)	Forest land acreage
<b>Soil Quality (Health)</b> Perennial Ground Cover, Alternative Cropping Systems & Management	<b>All Lands</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1000</b> (\$300,000 estimate)	CRP acreage adjacent to rangeland
<b>Initiatives</b>				
<b>Energy</b>			<b>Acres</b>	

## Programs & Projects to Address Resource Conservation Priorities (January 2014)

Resource Conservation Priority	Projects	Notes - Programs
Soil Quality - Health & Erosion (wind & water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do a soil health baseline with producers and align with soil testing</li> <li>Demonstration areas</li> <li>Offer package of projects in an area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil Quality index – soil kits, scorecards</li> <li></li> </ul>
CRP Takeout & Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put in perimeter and cross fencing in – focus on critical areas including freeways, breaks, areas next to existing range and pasture ground</li> <li>Concentrate on certain watersheds where the CRP is bordering on the coulee areas, poor productive lands for providing assistance with fencing and grazing</li> <li>Take out CRP by allowing grazing with projects and proper weed control</li> <li>Analyze what CRP ground would be better to go back into cropping (often in large acres) with proper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keeping CRP ground in cover in Adams and Lincoln Counties</li> </ul>

	<p>methods of pulling CRP out vs land that should remain with cover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• projects where perennial cover is part of the working farm and rotate acres in perennial cover is on xx acres</li> <li>• projects for water development to encourage grazing and wildlife management</li> </ul>	
Proper Management of Riparian Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See management through proper grazing</li> <li>• Work with WSU on riparian management techniques that fit our 2 counties</li> <li>• Promote flash grazing with our riparian management within exclusion areas</li> <li>• Weed control with proper grazing management</li> <li>• Local workshops for recommendations on riparian area management practices for 2 counties</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
Forest Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration projects on burned over ground – eg Swanson Lake</li> <li>• Proper stocking of trees and populations – thinning and management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding (50%) is available for thinning, forest management</li> </ul>
Wildlife (habitat, predators, populations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management and control projects for wildlife in the 2 county area – trappings, special hunts, doe permits, wolf control if necessary</li> <li>• See above CRP takeout projects – work with WDFW</li> <li>• Work with producers on riparian wildlife habitat projects</li> <li>• Look at proper predator control, matched with soil health, CRP takeout</li> <li>• Projects with connectivity with habitats</li> <li>• Projects related to reducing wildlife fatalities and safety hazards – insurance companies</li> <li>• Write legislation that would address predation issues / balance of control on private grounds by private land owners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunter access program</li> <li>• Status quo</li> <li>• Youth hunting program potential</li> <li>• Willing to work with private land owners</li> <li>• Producers indicating an explosion of deer</li> <li>• Calf loss to coyotes this year – 21 on one ranch</li> <li>• Weed concerns from over grazing and 'carry'</li> <li>• Need to get ahead of wolf population issues and needs</li> <li>• Program called wildlife control...nuisance and dangerous issues – available</li> <li>• Depavation permits.</li> <li>• Control hunt for a month</li> </ul>

<p>Technical Assistance to Follow up on land owner conservation objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach with producers on wildlife, grazing</li> <li>• Projects to develop farm wide systems – this is what we want to do...work on watershed-<u>farmshed</u> basis for conservation objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p>Energy Conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigated areas for switching over pumps, and energy conservation</li> <li>• Farmstead energy conservation projects</li> <li>• Windmill projects – water facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside funding</li> </ul>