

**OTAC Agenda**  
*February 16, 2012*  
*OSU Experiment Station*  
*Aurora, Oregon*

Reference documents from this meeting are posted at:  
<http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html>

**Next OTAC Meeting, June 6, 2011**  
**NRCS Salem Field Office**

**Ron Alvarado** - Appreciate you all coming out to this OTAC meeting and for your support in the area of NRCS's strategic approach that we have been implementing the last three years. Every day we are learning more how we can get better as an agency - improving how we communicate, helping you relay your interest in the Farm Bill. Once again thank you for supporting the process and being engaged.

**Lynn Voigt** – Challenging times have hit FSA in a big way. The budgets are different then they use to be – affecting the salaries and operating expenses. There is a 12 ½ percent cut in salaries and offices and a reduction of 18 percent in personnel ceiling. Congress expects us to do thing more effectively with fewer operating expenses. Groups like this are extremely important that are collaborating with everyone. Thank you for the partnership.

**FSA/ODFW – Open Field Program**

Lois Loop, FSA & Matt Keenan, ODFW

**Handout 1:** Got Geese?

Link: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html>

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program – HIP Grant Request – awarded 2.3 million. Only year one and two were funded.

- Columbia Bain Hunting Access Program
- Willamette Valley Goose Hunter Access Program
- Access area enhancement program
- Pay landowners up to \$3.00 per acre to allow public goose hunting

Point of Contact: Matt Keenan, ODFW, (503) 947 6087; [matthew.t.keenan@state.or.us](mailto:matthew.t.keenan@state.or.us)

Lois Loop, FSA, (503) 692-6830; [lois.loop@or.usda.gov](mailto:lois.loop@or.usda.gov)

For more information go to: [www.Oregonhuntingmap.com](http://www.Oregonhuntingmap.com)

**CCPI Project Presentation**

David Chain

Douglas County Oak Woodland Implementation Strategy **Handout 2:** Oak Habitat Restoration

Link: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html>

Restoration practices typically include thinning to reduce encroaching vegetation and tree densities, exotic brush control, and native grass seeding to promote the development of healthy, structurally-diverse oak habitats over time. The focus areas in priority oak habitats in Douglas and Jackson Counties, Oregon and Siskiyou County in California. For more information to [www.or.usda.gov](http://www.or.usda.gov) or contact David Chain, District Conservationist, [david.chain@or.usda.gov](mailto:david.chain@or.usda.gov) or call (541) 673-6071 Ext 107

**FY13 CIS Develop-Subcommittee Report**

Kathy Ferge

**Oregon NRCS OTAC/DC Teleconferences were held the week of January 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>**

Staffing included: Meta Loftsgaarden, early on as project lead; Kathy Ferge, facilitator, with assistance from Cory Owens and Becky Morris; Cec Cullison helped set up meetings.

**Purpose Behind Teleconferences – Two Fold:**

- Continue offering opportunities to further engage OTAC in Strategic Planning process; benefits to OTAC members – preview of projects to begin thinking about

their opportunities for collaboration/partnership

- Assist DC's with 2013 CIS projects - In particular this was a chance for DC's to share their projects with the OTAC members who may know of collaborative opportunities to leverage funding and may have technical expertise and staff to assist in CIS development and implementation.

**Teleconferences – Structured and Facilitated**

- Five OTAC Subcommittees organized at the October meeting – AFO/CAFO, Wildlife, Forestry, Range, Crops; CIS topic areas were divided to fit into the five subcommittee areas.
- Number of projects per subcommittee ranged from three – for AFO/CAFO to 23 – Crops (eventually consolidated by Basin and topic area to 12)
- Teleconferences scheduled for 2 hours, with DC's presenting 10 minutes followed by a five minute question/answer time for OTAC.
- Directions/guidance provided to OTAC participants and DC's prior the week prior to teleconferences

**Outcomes**

- In general conversations went reasonably well for the first time.
- Levels of engagement and participation by OTAC varied by subcommittee and the weather (week of flooding)
- DC's appreciated the opportunity to engage with OTAC reps
- For those projects still in the formative stages – OTAC participants generally offered thoughtful insights and suggestions

**Future of Teleconferences**

- Feedback from OTAC participants regarding interest in future teleconferences
- If we continue to move forward, what can we do to make them effective for both parties

**Suggestions**

- Ensure that projects featured are still in the formative stages
- Limit the number of presentations per topic area
- Encourage dialog among all parties
- Widen invitees

Contact Information: Kathy Ferge; [Kathy.ferge@or.usda.gov](mailto:Kathy.ferge@or.usda.gov); Phone: (503) 414 3200

**Tribal Liaison: What, Why & Who**

| Kathy Ferge

**Primary Purpose:** Ensuring NRCS fulfills its government-to-government responsibilities regarding the agency' trust responsibility to tribes and tribal individuals and to facilitate activity at the government-to-government level.

This includes:

- Addressing challenges with implementation of NRCS programs on Tribal lands and identify partnership opportunities.
- Assisting local NRCS tribal liaisons, as they identify specific needs in their work on tribal stewardship projects.

**Background:**

- Position isn't new to Oregon. First time Oregon has committed a full-time position primarily to tribes.
- Nine federally recognized tribes based in Oregon – reservations range in size from Warm Springs 644,000 acres to Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw with 405 discontinuous acres
- Four federally recognized tribes with ceded lands in Oregon
- Umatilla and Warm Springs are the only tribes that remained intact as tribes throughout the termination period. As a result were able to retain a larger share of their treaty lands than other Oregon tribes all of which were terminated
- All tribes are seeking to purchase or manage land considered to be part of their

ancestral territory, e.g. Klamath negotiating an option to acquire 90k of Winema National Forest.

- All tribes have natural resource plans and are developing collaborations for various restoration activities.

**Activities to date:**

Primarily getting out and about in Indian Country

- Tour of Oregon's seven western most tribes – assisted by Katherine Goodluck, Oregon/Idaho rep from Intertribal Ag Council
- Participation in national and regional conferences – National Ag Symposium, Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians
- Working in conjunction with Katherine to host a meeting to explore the interest of Oregon tribes in having an ongoing Tribal Advisory Council. Function in a similar manner to OTAC, but with a focus on those issues that are a barrier to tribal participation in NRCS programs. Looking at dates mid-to late spring, centrally located – Bend.
- Assisting DC's and BTL to strengthen their engagement with tribes. Utilization of the CIS process, in conjunction with tribal natural resource planning to focus strategies on tribal lands or lands of tribal interest.

**Other activities:**

Portion of position devoted to Civil Rights related activities for underserved audiences, including tribal, customers and employees – program access, outreach activities and recruitment

**OTAC Member Updates**

**Lynn Voigt** – FSA - **Handout 3:** National Climate Change Wildlife Adaption Strategy – First national strategy to help decision makers and resource managers prepare for and help reduce the impacts of climate change on species, ecosystems, and the people and economies that depend on them. Public review and comments are due by March 5, 2012.

Web Site: [www.wildlifeadaptionstrategy.gov](http://www.wildlifeadaptionstrategy.gov)

For more information check out the following site:

<http://www.wildlifeadaptionstreategy.gov/public-comments.php>

**Jerry Nicolescu** – OACD -November 7-9 in Eugene at Valley River Inn is the next conference.

**Steve Dettman** – Forestry Ecotrust – We are working with Oregon Solutions on juniper removal.

**Lois Loop** – General sign up on CRP March 12 through April 5<sup>th</sup>. Short sign up and going to be very competitive. Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) signups going on now and target the sage grouse and easement area.

**Kathy Verbal** – Department of State Lands – EPA development grant monitoring and assessment of wetlands.

**Jeremy Baker** – OCEAN set Connect 2012 training conference for 24-26 of April.

**Dan Long** - Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center – minimum tillage moisture in eastern Oregon. Erosion. Light detection LIDAR to maps draw yield.

Papers on conservation techniques.

**Bill Braunworth** – OSU - Regional based structure. Budget cuts shrinking our staff that delivers programs. 36 chairs in each county to a dozen. Shrinking foot print. More difficult to be present. More online types of activities.

**Dalton Straus** – Livestock industry – Exceptional times from the price standpoint. Input cost to rise are going up but not sure how much longer we will see this rise.

**James Johnson** – OSU College of Forestry - Forest management uniform endorsement program. One uniform forest management plan that will satisfy all the plans in Oregon.

**Lower Willamette Team Leader Update**

Leo Preston

NRCS has eight large watershed basins with one team leader for each area. Thank you for your organizations participation in the local work groups. The numbers are increasing and

getting great feedback. Keep being engaged with the local work groups. Lower Basin had six counties and an office in each county. There are seven conservations districts that we work with in these counties. Six districts have a tax base and they have beefed up the programs and picked up on technical aspects and outreach. WRP and EQIP are the big programs in our basin. 50 WRP permanent easements in the basin and last year we brought in three new ones. EQIP – water quality part of it and dong a number of things. Complimented water quality with water quantity. Irrigation management is becoming better. Forestry is in each county. We have one basin funding pool for Forestry. There are 230 EQIP and regular initiatives.

**NRCS Technical & Science Needs Assessment**

Bill White

**Handout 4:** PowerPoint on Technical & Science Needs Assessment

Link: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html>

Oregon NRCS Effort motivated by

- Recent retirements and vacancies
- Challenging budget
- Opportunities to assess current and future needs

Action: Requesting a list of interceded OTAC members to provide feedback.

**Oregon Technology and Science Needs Assessment Team:**

Jerry Nicolescu – OACD	Danny Burgett – NRCS
CalLee Davenport-US F&WS	Karma Anderson-US EPA
Lois Loop – FSA	Kathy Verble-DSL
Kay Teisl-Oregon Cattlemen’s	Jeremy Baker – OCEAN
Dan Long – USDA/ARS	Marc Thalacker-Three Sisters Irrigation District
Koto Kishida-DEQ	Gene Foster-DEQ
National – Technical Functional Assessment Survey	
- Study of agency capacity and future needs	
- Will provide updates on this national effort.	

**OTAC Committee Members for Water Quality Initiative:**

Jerry Nicolescu – OACD	Karma Anderson-US EPA
Kathy Verble-DSL	Kay Teisl-Oregon Cattlemen’s
John Williams-USDA/ARS	Koto Kishida-DEQ
Gene Foster-DEQ	Bill Braunworth-OSU, CES
Dalton Straus-Oregon Cattlemen’s	Jim Johnson-OSU College of Forestry
This team will provide input and recommendations on watershed strategies.	

**Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SFSCC) – Amendment to Minutes**

“In a review of the past minutes we noticed the omission of the discussion and agreement designating the Oregon State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SFSCC) to be the standing and permanent "sub-committee" for forestry related matters and issues. Consequently, the minutes for February 16, 2012, are amended to note this omission and record the previous agreement making the Oregon State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SFSCC) the standing and permanent "sub-committee" of OTAC for forestry related matters and issues. This agreement now is recorded in the minutes for the official record.”

**Attendees:** Lynn Voigt, FSA; Ron Alvarado, NRCS; Steve Dettman, Forestry Ecotrust; Kay Teisl, Oregon Cattlemen’s Association; Jerry Nicolescu, OACD; Lois Loop, FSA; Dalton Straus, Oregon Cattlemen’s Association; Karma Anderson, US EPA; Matt Keenan, ODFW, Bill Braunworth, OSU, Cooperative Extension Service; John Williams, USDA/ARS; Dan Long, Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center;

*Marc Thalacker, Three Sisters Irrigation District; Kathy Verble, DSL; Jeremy Baker, OCEAN; Craig Rowland, US Fish and Wildlife; Anthony Barber, US EPA; James Johnson, OSU College of Forestry; Koto Kishida, OR Department of Environmental Quality; Sara Magenheimer, Kathy Ferge, Bill White, Bruce Sandoval, Leo Preston, Cec Cullison, David Chain, NRCS.*