

NRCS Oregon Report for SWCC February 2024 Meeting

- **Hiring Updates**
 - State office positions
 - Field office positions, bundles across state
 - Oregon's RCPP coordinator, Tom Miewald, accepted a new position so continue to work with your local NRCS POCs on projects, payments and modifications as we backfill his important position
- **IRA funding update**
 - National emphasis on NEW customers – people who have never contacted us or worked with us before
- **Three new RCPP projects awarded in Oregon for FY24**
 - Restoring, Protecting, and Supporting Tribal Connection to Native Oak Habitat
 - Lead Partner: Oregon Agricultural Trust
 - Total Funding Request: \$9,232,000
 - Oregon Dairy Climate and Water Quality Partnership
 - Lead Partner: Tillamook County Creamery Association
 - Total Funding Request: \$4,000,000
 - Stewarding the Working Wild in MT, OR, and CO: Non-lethal Predator Risk Management on Agriculture Operations (NRCS Montana is lead for this project)
 - Lead Partner: Heart of the Rockies Initiative
 - Total Funding Request: \$16,664,634 (Oregon will receive approximately \$4M in Financial Assistance)
 - [Learn more about the projects here.](#)
- **USDA increased minimum annual payment for producers enrolled in Conservation Stewardship Program.**
 - Payments increased from \$1,500 to \$4,000 starting in fiscal year 2024.
 - New minimum payment is available for new and renewed CSP contracts.
 - Deadline to submit CSP applications in Oregon is March 29, 2024.
- **NRCS is seeking public comment on proposed revisions to eight national conservation practice standards. Comments are due March 4, 2024.**
 - Proposed revisions to the national conservation practice standards include:
 - Field Border (Code 386);
 - Filter Strip (Code 393);
 - Grazing Management (Code 528);
 - Hedgerow Planting (Code 422);
 - Mulching (Code 484);
 - Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife (Code 646);
 - Structure for Water Control (Code 587); and
 - Wetland Restoration (Code 657)
 - [Submit comments here.](#)
- **Upcoming events**
 - It's Local Work Group Season across the state
 - National Cooperative Soil Survey Partners Meeting

- March 19, 2024, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- In person in Salem and virtual on Zoom
- [Register here.](#)
- Save the Date - Partnerscapes Annual Private Lands Partners Day 2024 is in Redmond, Oregon this year.
 - Monday October 7 – Wednesday October 9, 2024
 - [More info to come!](#) (Website not yet updated to reflect 2024 Oregon event)