

Cascade Pacific RC&D Projects March 25, 2010

Local Food Connection

This program just finished its 4th successful year at Lane Community College in conjunction with the LCC Culinary Department. It is a direct marketing event that benefits local growers and buyers in our six county RC&D area. Farmers, fishers and ranchers make direct business contacts with chefs, schools, hospitals, restaurants and grocery stores. Educational workshops are provided on transportation, storage, value-added products, marketing and sales. 200 people were trained and 100 businesses exposed to the retail market on the Food Hub. Increased sales occur each year creating additional jobs on the farm. It is funded by EWEB and Oregon Tilth. Applied for Farmers Market Promotion Program grant for \$46,000 4/15/2010.

Food Hub

Ecotrust in partnership with RC&Ds and others developed an on-line marketplace to help growers and food buyers find each other at www.food-hub.org. This allows food buyers to establish what the market demand is for locally grown products, which allows farmers to plan ahead to fill this demand. The system will be expanded to allow transactions and scheduling of delivery from farm to buyer (Phase 3) CPRCD is helping to enroll clients into the program.

McKenzie Demonstration Project

CPRCD has entered into an agreement with EWEB to manage a demonstration farm in the McKenzie Watershed. The farm will be educational in nature and provide workshops for growers and students on transitioning to organic farming method, irrigation efficiency, saving energy, accessing local markets and ecosystem services to name a few. The land was acquired by McKenzie River Trust and the farm will be managed by a contracted farm manager and work with a steering committee to implement the program. Funded by EWEB and grants.

Statewide Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program

This program provided assistance and funding to farmers, ranchers and rural business owners to install energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in western Oregon. Funding is provided by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for a three-year period to test how RC&Ds can run the BPA's agricultural energy program. The USDA-NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant is also funding the development of a model program that can be used at other localities. The program conducts energy audits and develops grant packages on behalf of farmers, ranchers and rural businesses to take advantage of grants, tax credits, and other federal and state incentives to increase energy efficiency and develop renewable energy projects.

Funded by CIG = \$75,000 and BPA = \$100,000/year

Farm Stay Association and Website

This is a statewide project that will construct a full interactive farm stay website to assist farmers to set up and advertise their farm stay. There is currently no Farm Stay website in the U.S. The USDA 2007 Census identifies 38,553 farms in Oregon. Assuming only a 1% of these farms undertakes the addition of a farm stay to their operation, there could be 385 farms on-line within several years. At an average of \$100/night for 60 nights (16% capacity), these farms will generate \$2.3 million in farm income, not counting the additional revenues collected by on-site farm stores, community businesses and additional jobs to run the farm stays. Funded by SARE and RBEG.

Willamette Valley Birding Trail

The Willamette Valley Birding Trail (WVBT) is completed with printed guides and the Web version available at www.oregonbirdingtrails.org/wvtrailguide.htm. The WFBT is a self guided tour of 138 birding hotspots available by bicycle or public transit. It spans the area from Columbia River to Cottage Grove. The project brings visitors into rural areas and improves the local economy by providing lodging and restaurants for bird visitors. CPRCD provided facilitation, distribution of the brochures and fiscal management for the project.

Statewide Oregon Country Trails

This program helps rural businesses set up driving trails in their area with at least 15 rural businesses per trail. It also provides each business training to set up and run an online shopping presence on the Oregon Country Trails website. This rapidly expanding program is up to 200 members with 400 projected by this summer. CPRCD is promoting signups through the Oregon Association of Counties at their April 2010 meeting with Danuta Pfeiffer and Will Tucker, Linn County Commissioner, using Linn County as a model for county involvement as match. The program should be self-sustaining with 500 members. This program is supported by Travel Oregon and the Office of the Governor as a model for further development.

Native Oregon Truffle Standards and Certification

This project creates a native truffle industry starting with creating standards for harvesting and marketing Oregon native truffles. Truffles are highly prized in Norwest gourmet cuisine and pair well with Oregon pinot noir wines. CPRCD funded a feasibility study using an RBEG grant which details opportunities and barriers for establishment of the industry in Western Oregon. The main hurdle to launching the industry is the truffle standards and certification so high quality truffles meet market expectations and demand. This project creates new jobs and spin-off businesses such as truffle dog certification, grading, value-added truffle products, and an expanding truffle festival.

Native Plant Materials Center

CPRCD worked with BLM and a steering committee made of partners from Willamette National Forest, Institute for Applied Ecology, NRCS, USF&W, National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy to open

and run a native plant materials center. The plant materials center is located at the BLM's Horning Tree Seed Orchard in Colton, Oregon and will grow native species from seeds collected at future restoration sites. The Horning Native Plant Materials Center includes 30 acres of native plant beds and wetland shade houses, three greenhouses, freezer/cooler space, work buildings, seed extractor and lab, farm equipment and an office. A plant manager was recently hired from funding from the BLM.

CREP Planner

Through a NRCS contribution agreement and a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant a CREP Planner was trained and completed 9 CREP plans in Linn County. CPRCD was just awarded a second NFWF grant for \$45,000 to fund 15 CREP plans in 2010.

CPRCD Strategic Planning

As part of our 5-year Strategic Planning process we are holding public meetings in the 6 counties during April and May. An overview of the organization will be presented and input from rural communities in our four emphasis areas will be generated through group discussions.

Southern Willamette Groundwater Management Area (SGWMA)

CPRCD was on the steering committee for the SGWMA and assisted in the development of the agriculture portion of their 5 year plan. As part of the implementation strategy, CPRCD wrote a NRCS-AWEP grant for additional NRCS-EQIP funds of \$2,250,000 over 5 years to help farmers install irrigation water management, nutrient management, conservation crop rotation, cover crops and irrigation systems in areas of well drained and excessively well drained soils. These practices will help protect surface and groundwater.

Coast Range Stewardship Program

Cascade Pacific RC&D has been working under a cooperative agreement with the Siuslaw National Forest for 12 years forging the development of three stewardship areas: the Alsea, Mary's Peak and Siuslaw Stewardship groups. The primary goal of the Coast Range Stewardship Program is to offer landowners an accessible funding source to help restore habitat on private lands. These groups have been instrumental in helping to prioritize projects that open fish passage, create in-stream habitat, install riparian planting and fencing, control noxious weeds, and improve wildlife habitat. CPRCD manages the program with funding from the Siuslaw National Forest retained receipts under Wyden authority.

The Willamette Wetland Restoration Partnership (See attachment)

NOTE: Information not included.