



Wy'East
Resource Conservation & Development
Strategic Area Plan

*A roadmap to guide the future direction of the
Wy'East RC&D in the Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and
Central Oregon from 2008 - 2012.*

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Introduction

This document is the strategic long-range plan for the Wy'East Resource Conservation and Development Area Council (Wy'East). Wy'East solicited input from public individuals and units of government in the Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon area. In addition, Wy'East council members provided extensive interviews and guidance on the development of this plan. The counties served by this Area Plan include the following: Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson. In addition, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is served by this plan.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a strategic roadmap to guide the future direction for Wy'East. Wy'East is stronger than ever before, yet more efforts are needed to ensure a strong sustainable organization that serves the communities in our service area.

Congress passed the Food and Agricultural Act of 1962, which authorized Resource Conservation and Development areas. This act expands the opportunities for conservation districts, local units of governments, and individuals to improve their communities in multi-county areas for the following purposes:

- To develop and carry out area plans and projects in designated areas in order to conserve, develop, and improve the use of land.
- To develop natural resources.
- To improve and enhance the social, economic, and environmental conditions in primarily rural areas of the United States.
- To encourage and improve the capability of State and local units of government, Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, and councils.

This includes assistance in enhancing the economic, environmental and social well being of the RC&D Areas. Currently, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the Federal RC&D Program. This document serves as an agreement between NRCS and the Wy'East.

Organization Overview

The Wy'East Resource Conservation and Development Council (Wy'East) is a locally led rural development organization serving the Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon area. Founded in 1994, Wy'East employs strategies for sustainable development that builds community social cohesion, economic viability, and conservation of natural resources primarily in rural areas. Through collaboration with communities to connect and pool resources, mutual goals accomplish the building of sustainable communities. Wy'East is organized as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.



Wy'East is located on the east side of the Cascade Range in North Central Oregon. Situated by the Columbia River on the North and the Cascade Range on the West, the area comprises the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, and the counties of Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes.

Our Mission and Vision

Wy'East envisions communities and individuals that protect, restore, enhance and sustain communities and natural resources. To bring that vision into reality, Wy'East's mission invests in people, partnerships and resources to achieve solutions leading to a sustainable future in the Columbia River Gorge, Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon.

What Makes Wy'East Unique

Wy'East provides a focal point of local leadership and bring together private citizens and local, state and federal agencies to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon area.

Wy'East has successfully carried out projects making technology available address economic and environmental issues in agriculture. Wy'East has the proven capacity and strength of leadership to engage and accomplish projects that benefit local communities and the region.

Our Customers

We serve over 216,000 people living in the six Oregon counties in the Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon. Our primary customers include:

- Rural communities, individuals and businesses that require financial and technical assistance needed to address their diverse and unique needs.
- Farmers and ranchers, people who own, operate, or live on farms and ranches.
- Other members of the private sector who support production agriculture and natural resource conservation.
- Governments and units of government with responsibility for natural resource use and management.
- Non-profit organizations whose mission aligns with aspects of natural resource management

Services

The RC&D provides an effective forum for member organizations to analyze community needs, develop plans to meet these needs, and coordinate the resources required to accomplish these plans. This is what we do:

Planning Charrette: Wy'East assists members and locally led community groups to organize, then find practical solutions to problems and issues. The charrette is a collaborative planning process that harnesses the talents and energies of all interested parties to create and support a feasible plan that represents transformative community change.

Grant Proposal Writing: Wy'East forms partnerships with locally led groups to write funding proposals to government agencies, foundations, and corporations. Assistance includes all aspects of the grant writing including planning, conducting funder searches, proposal writing, and submission of the proposal and follow-up with funders.

Project Implementation: Wy'East provides grant administration, evaluation, and general project management in partnership with locally led groups, which are not eligible, or without the desire to manage grant-funded projects.

Region Wide Initiatives: Wy'East builds partnerships that address regional natural resource conservation and development strategies.

Background and Structure of the Council

History

On February 18, 1994, a Steering Committee comprised of Counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs was established,

by-laws approved, and the name Wy'East was adopted. In 1994, we asked for help from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to improve the economy through orderly development and conservation of resources through the Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon. The Wy'East RC&D Area Council was formally organized as a non-profit Corporation under Oregon State law and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code on April 28, 1994.

Governance

The governing body of Wy'East is a membership comprised of individuals, non-profit organizations, local governments, and The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Wy'East - Land of Legend

The name Wy'East is a Native American name for Mount Hood. It is the highest mountain in Oregon and is visible from each of the six counties in the RC&D Area. There are several legends that vividly recount the fiery origin of Wy'East. One legend tells of a mighty chief who dreamed one night that to save his people he must subdue Sal-leks De-Aubs; the demon who dwelled within the mountain. The chief climbed to the summit and began throwing boulders into the crater. Enraged, De-Aubs replied by hurling out hot rocks and lava. The battle continued until the chief looked upon the land that he had covered with lava.

Another legend concerns the two brothers, Wy'East and Pa-toe (Mount Adams). Both loved the same beautiful maiden. As the brothers fought, they covered the land with smoke, ash, heated rock, and lava. Eventually, Wy'East admitted defeat and the beautiful maiden went to the base of Pa-toe, where she is now known as Sleeping Beauty.

Overview of the Area

The Wy'East RC&D service area stretches over 10,700 square miles of land in the Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon. Its length reaches 170 air miles from peaks in the Cascade Mountains to where it joins the Columbia River. In width, it extends up to 125 miles from the eastern slopes of the Cascades to the western slopes of the Ochoco Mountains and Columbia Plateau. Land ownership is about 51 percent public, 7 percent Tribal, and 42 percent private. The entire area is included in the ceded lands of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Now, as in the past, the Deschutes River binds the people of Central Oregon together just as the Columbia River binds the people of the Columbia River Gorge and Mid-Columbia together. As these rivers flow, they collect the voices and stories of many people.

These people share a love for the Deschutes and Columbia Rivers, though they value these rivers in many different ways. Some, such as the people of the Warm Springs Reservation, value the river as part of their cultural heritage. For farmers and ranchers, people who make a living from the land and its natural resources, the river

has provided an important source of water needed for sustaining livestock, forage and cultivated crops. For loggers and mill and factory workers, forests in the basin have provided the crop and raw material for income and employment. For a growing number of people who reside in and outside the Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon, the area is valued for its diverse recreational opportunities. The communities realize an extraordinary quality of life benefits based upon environmental, social, and economic attributes. ***Collectively these voices and stories make up the communities” of the*** Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon.

Socio-economic Data

This summation of socio-economic information is for the Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon counties made up of Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco and Hood River.

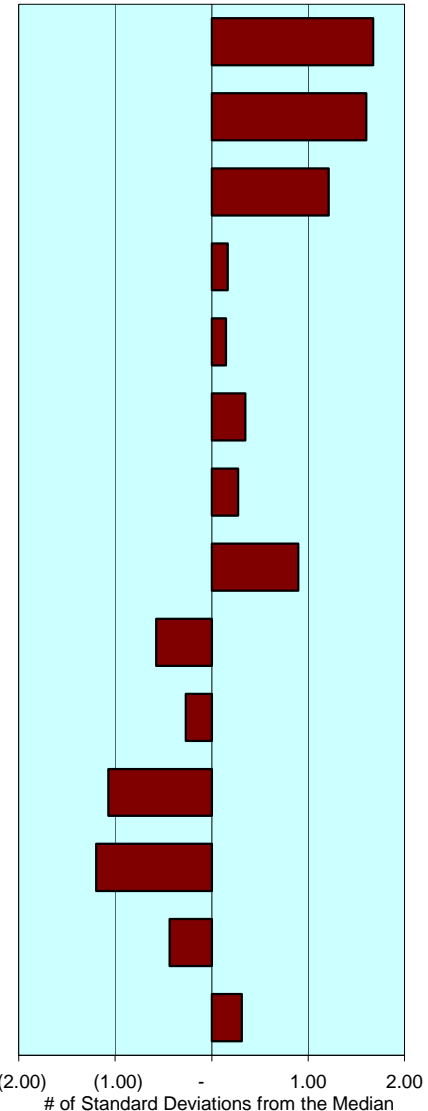
Wy'East Area Socio-economic Summary

Benchmark = Median of all Counties in U.S.***

Compared to benchmark area, the county has:

← Less Than | More Than →

| Wy'East Resource Conservation & Development Service Area | US Median |
|--|---------------------|
| Population Growth (Annualized rate, 1970-2004) | 2.9% 0.7% |
| Employment Growth (Annualized rate, 1970-2004) | 3.7% 1.4% |
| Personal Income Growth (Adjusted for Inflation, Annualized rate, 1970-2004) | 4.0% 2.2% |
| Non-labor Income Share of Total in 2004 | 38.0% 36.7% |
| Median Age* | 37.9 37.3 |
| Per Capita Income (2004) | \$ 27,525 \$ 25,335 |
| Average Earnings Per Job (2004) | \$ 32,094 \$ 29,750 |
| Education Rate (% of population 25 and over who have a college degree)* | 21.4% 14.5% |
| Employment Specialization* | 805.4 961.0 |
| Ratio Rich/Poor (Number of households that made under \$30K for every household that made over \$100K)* | 4.2 8.7 |
| Housing Affordability (100 or above means that the median family can afford the median house)* | 116 186 |
| Change in Housing Affordability (1990-2000)* | -12.0% 10.3% |
| Government share of Total employment | 12% 15% |
| Unemployment Rate in 2005** | 5.9% 5.2% |



All data are from REIS except * are from 2000 US Census and ** is from Bureau of Labor Statistics.

***Median is the middle value of a list of numbers. This is different from mean (average), which is the sum of all the numbers in a list divided by the number of numbers in the list.

Natural Resources

The Wy'East service area covers 7,420, 200 acres in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes Counties. Included in table one are the broad land and cover uses.

| Land use the Wy'East Resource Conservation and Development Area | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|
| Land use | % of area | Acreage Estimate |
| Federal lands | 43% | 3,224,000 |
| Rangeland | 29% | 2,133,900 |
| Forest land | 13% | 973,800 |
| Cultivated cropland | 5% | 387,800 |
| Pastureland | 2% | 166,200 |
| CRP Land | 2% | 139,400 |
| Non-cultivated cropland | 2% | 118,600 |
| Other rural lands | 1% | 99,200 |
| Urban lands | 1% | 68,600 |
| Large water | Less than 1% | 47,200 |
| Small water | Less than 1% | 17,800 |
| Rural transportation | Less than 1% | 47,700 |
| Total | | 7,420,200 |

Source: NRCS Oregon NRI Deschutes Basin

Erosion

The total tons of soil lost per year due to water-induced sheet and rill erosion fell from 221,300 tons per year in 1982 to 186,200 tons per year in 1997, on cropland, pastureland, and retired agricultural land in the Wy'East area.

Increase in Urban Lands

Urban lands grew an estimated 30,200 acres or 12% from 1982 to 1997. The communities with the highest growth were Bend, Redmond, Prineville and Madras. These communities continue to grow at an unprecedented rate. Changes in Oregon land use laws will increase the conversion of rural lands to urban lands.

Agriculture.

For 150 years agriculture in the Wy'East area has progressed from small farms meeting the needs of small families and communities to a highly productive technology industry that exports commodities around the world. With this technologically advanced agricultural system have come environmental costs. The use of synthetic pesticides and herbicides along with fertilizer these residues have entered waterways affecting the ecosystem. The Oregon agriculture water management system is addressing the issues of water quality affected by agricultural production. Through the efforts of state federal and local agencies and organizations agricultural lands are being managed using conservation methods and practices.

The conversion of agricultural lands to other uses has increased by 30,000 acres or 12% from 1982 until 1997. Recent revisions in Oregon's land use laws are expected to increase the amount of agricultural land converted to urban uses. The conversion of agricultural lands poses a threat to the viability of the agriculture in the Bend, Redmond, Prineville, and Madras.

The adoption of conservation tillage practices in dryland agriculture areas like Wasco County has increased dramatically in the last fifteen years. Today, 75% of the dryland cropland in Wasco County is farmed using a no-till cropping system. The adoption of the no-till cropping system has reduced soil erosion to practically zero and has and increased the organic matter in the soils profile benefiting soil quality. Farmers are adopting precision agricultural practices such as yield monitors and advance spray systems to reduce the use of chemicals and fertilizers.

Agriculture's use of water is under pressure from other competing needs. Irrigators are being asked to improve conservation of irrigation water to benefit threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. Through cooperative conservation additional water is being diverted to end stream flows.

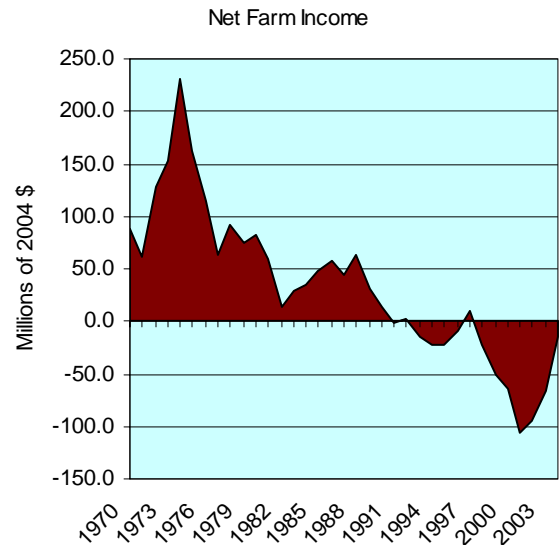
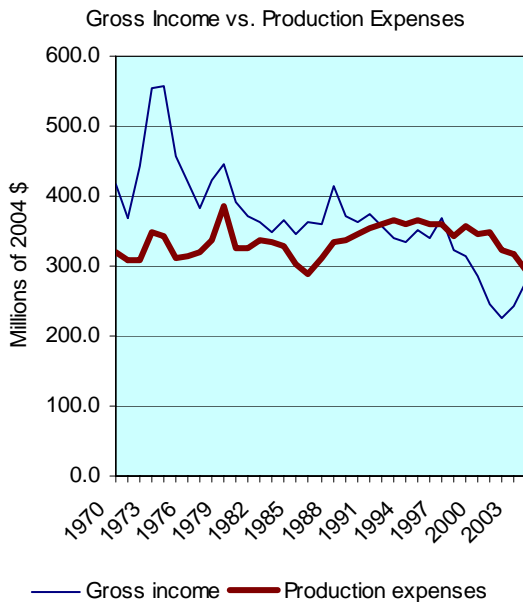
In Central Oregon where irrigated row crops are grown such as peppermint and carrot seed, farmers are installing drip irrigation systems to conserve water. Many irrigation delivery canals are being converted to pipes that allows additional water to be placed in stream benefiting fish and wildlife.

Agriculture Income

Farm income figures reflect income from farming enterprises (income of the business) within the Wy'East RC&D service area. The term "farm" includes farming and ranching, but not agricultural services such as soil preparation services and veterinary services. In contrast, farm income figures presented in the next section reflect personal income earned by individuals (income of individuals, both proprietors and wage and salary employees) who work in farming and ranching.

| Gross Income, Expenses, and Net Income from Farming and Ranching | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| All figures in thousands of 2004 dollars | 1970 | % of Gross Income | 1994 | % of Gross Income | 2004 | % of Gross Income | 70-04 Change in Share |
| Gross Income (Cash + Other) | 416,072 | | 334,719 | | 278,202 | | |
| Cash Receipts from Marketings | 383,686 | 92% | 274,661 | 82% | 235,059 | 84.5% | -8% |
| Livestock & Products | 159,221 | 38% | 70,010 | 21% | 43,323 | 15.6% | -23% |
| Crops | 224,465 | 54% | 204,651 | 61% | 191,736 | 68.9% | 15% |
| Other Income | 32,386 | 8% | 60,058 | 18% | 43,143 | 15.5% | 8% |
| Government Payments | 21,631 | 5% | 18,106 | 5% | 16,607 | 6.0% | 1% |
| Imputed Rent & Rent Received | 10,755 | 3% | 41,952 | 13% | 26,536 | 9.5% | 7% |
| Production Expenses | 321,359 | | 360,726 | | 294,673 | | |
| Realized Net Income (Income - Expenses) | 94,713 | | (26,008) | | (16,471) | | |
| Value of Inventory Change | (6,091) | -1% | 3,531 | 1% | 1,379 | 0.5% | NA |
| Total Net Income (Inc. corporate farms) | 88,199 | | (22,477) | | (15,092) | | |

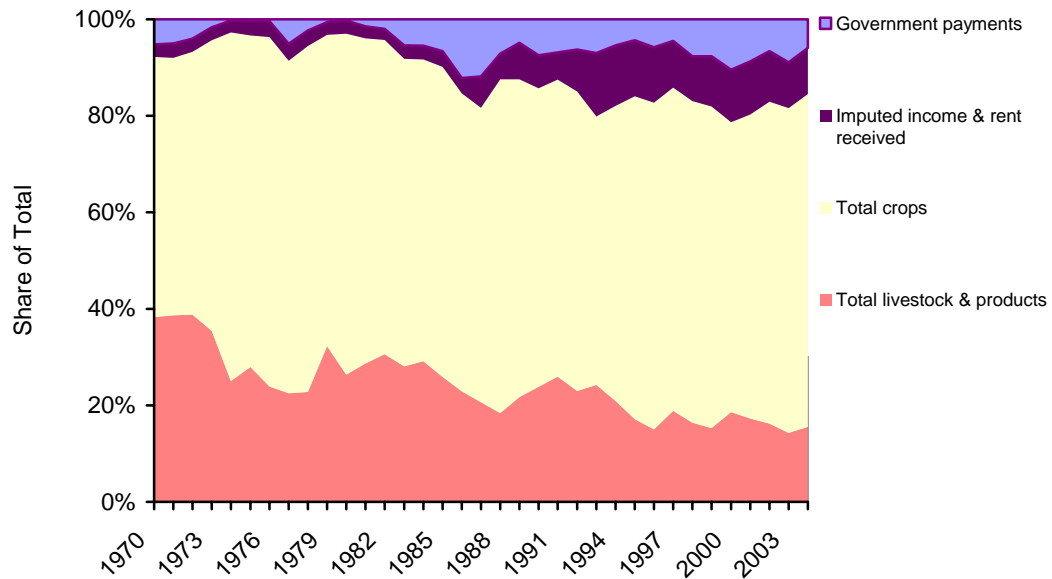
Source: BEA REIS 2004 CD Table CA45



Expense Details

| All figures in thousands of 2004 dollars | 1970 | | 1994 | | 2004 | | Change in Share |
|---|---------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | % of Gross Income | | % of Gross Income | | % of Gross Income | |
| Production expenses | 321,359 | | 360,726 | | 294,673 | | |
| Feed purchased | 27,902 | 9% | 10,377 | 3% | 11,840 | 4.0% | -5% |
| Livestock purchased | 55,297 | 17% | 15,719 | 4% | 3,776 | 1.3% | -16% |
| Seed purchased | 4,026 | 1% | 4,233 | 1% | 4,989 | 1.7% | 0% |
| Fertilizer and lime (incl. ag. chemicals 1970) | 30,097 | 9% | 28,409 | 8% | 30,726 | 10.4% | 1% |
| Petroleum products purchased | 11,280 | 4% | 7,797 | 2% | 11,531 | 3.9% | 0% |
| Hired farm labor expenses 2/ | 66,480 | 21% | 54,360 | 15% | 62,212 | 21.1% | 0% |
| All other production expenses 3/ | 126,276 | 39% | 239,832 | 66% | 169,583 | 57.5% | 18% |

Income Breakout Share of total



Resource Needs and Opportunities:

Public Participation Activities.

Wy'East conducted public participation processes to address local resource conservation and development needs that are highest priority to the residents of the Wy'East service area. Wy'East conducted the following activities:

- Council member interviews.
- Public meetings in Prineville, Madras, Warm Springs, and Maupin.
- Research existing plans and publications that address social, economic and environmental opportunities in the service area.

Summary of Findings by RC&D Program Elements

This section summarizes the findings relating to resource needs and opportunities from the public participation activities. It is broken down by the four elements defined in the enabling legislation authorizing the RC&D Program. The four elements include Land Conservation, Water Management, Community Development, and Land Management and "Other".

The resource concerns assessment is a comprehensive evaluation of the condition of the six counties that make up the Wy'East RC&D service area. The counties include Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco, and Hood River. It takes into account the entire spectrum of natural resources and their relationship to the social and economic structure in the area.

The resource concerns identified serve as a platform for making decisions about local priorities and policies for conservation programs that are delivered locally. It recognizes various local, state, and federal laws and regulations that may influence how a conservation need is addressed.

Community Development Element Resource Concerns & Opportunities

Community Development is defined as the *development of resource-based industries; the protection of rural industries from natural resource hazards; the development of adequate rural water and waste disposal systems; the improvement of recreation facilities; the improvement of rural housing; the provision of adequate health and education facilities; the satisfaction of essential transportation and communication needs; and the promotion of food security, economic development, and education.*

Water Management Element Resource Concerns & Opportunities

Water management is defined in statute as the conservation, use, and quality of water, including irrigation and rural water supplies; the *mitigation of floods* and

high water tables; the repair and improvement of reservoirs; the improvement of agricultural water management; and the improvement of water quality.

Land Management Element Resource Concerns & Opportunities

Land Management is defined in statute as *energy conservation* that includes the production of energy crops; the *protection of agricultural land* as appropriate from conversion to other uses; *farmland protection*; and the protection of *fish and wildlife habitats*.

Land Conservation Element Resource Concerns & Opportunities

Land Conservation is defined in statute as the *control of erosion and sedimentation*.

Wy'East RC& D Elements - Resource Concerns & Opportunities

| Sub-Elements | Resource Concerns | Opportunities | Possible Action by Wy'East |
|--|--|--|--|
| Community Development Element | | | |
| Develop resource based industry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for more locally-based value-added processing infrastructure from agriculture and forestry. | Determine opportunities for value-added agriculture products. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue LazTech Carbon Probe project. Continue Solar Water Heater project Continue Camelina Marketing project |
| Engaged, caring & safe communities: | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water & waste disposal systems | Not all communities comply with environmental laws and regulations. | Evaluate needs with individual communities | Provide community development <i>Planning Charrette</i> assistance |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve recreation facilities | Existing recreation facilities are often need of basic repair. | Evaluate needs with individual communities | Provide community development <i>Planning Charrette</i> assistance |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural housing | Every community has a need for affordable housing. | Evaluate needs with individual communities | Provide community development <i>Planning Charrette</i> assistance |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and education facilities | Education facilities in many communities are in need of repair. | Evaluate needs with individual communities | Provide community development <i>Planning Charrette</i> assistance |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation and communication | 911 emergency system is not available in all parts of the service area. | Evaluate needs with individual communities | Continue Wasco 911 Call Center project |
| Food security | Most food supplies are trucked into Wy'East service area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop local direct marketing to consumers and schools. Support agriculture product certification label. | Initiate grown locally project in cooperation with Oregon Environmental Council, Food Alliance, and Oregon Tilth and others . |
| Economic Development | Traditional economic development programs of industrial recruitment do not work in the most rural parts of | Take action to initiate an entrepreneurial climate that leads to new microenterprises and jobs. | Continue Central Oregon MicroEnterprise Facilitation project. |

Wy'East RC& D Elements - Resource Concerns & Opportunities

| Sub-Elements | Resource Concerns | Opportunities | Possible Action by Wy'East |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Wy'East service area. | | |
| Education (Capacity building) | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation education | Lack of awareness and understanding of resource issues, policy and technical assistance activities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops, tours for farmers and ranchers. • Conservation education benefiting schools. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide landowners with information, technical and financial assistance as part of existing and new project activities. • Develop a community school conservation education project. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative problem solving | Stakeholder conflicts over environmental laws & regulatory challenges. | Apply new methods of dispute resolution. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate Oregon Technical Assistance Committee Basin Work Group. • Continue to facilitate natural resource conflicts resolution. |
| Water Management Element | | | |
| Water management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most river systems in Oregon have been heavily modified in order to achieve various flood control, irrigation, navigation, hydropower, recreation and water supply benefits. • Irrigation system efficiencies and management not optimal. • Streams experiences extreme annual fluctuation in flow levels which are only made more intense by irrigation withdrawals and human-caused changes in the runoff characteristics of the watershed. • Impervious surfaces, such as paved or compacted roads, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low flow issues can be addressed by programs aimed at reducing surface water withdrawals. • improved irrigation efficiency, either on-farm or in irrigation ditches. • Improving enforcement of existing water rights and minimum instream flows. • In the absence of significant climate change, the area can likely continue to provide direct benefits from past water development, however expansion of benefits will increasingly require cooperative, innovative solutions involving water | Continue Water & Economic Optimization project with Oregon State University, Oregon Trout & farmers. |

Wy'East RC& D Elements - Resource Concerns & Opportunities

| Sub-Elements | Resource Concerns | Opportunities | Possible Action by Wy'East |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| | rooftops, and parking lots, increase peak flows. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available water supply is fully- or often over-allocated during the low flow summer and fall months. | rights transfers, conservation, new technology and environmentally acceptable multi-purpose storage. | |
| Water quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly all stream listed on Or DEQ 303d list for one or more stressors from water temperature, pesticides, nutrients, sediment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The average water quality over the period of record (as measured by the Oregon Water Quality Index [OWQI]) is typically poor or very poor. • Reduce the use of organophosphate pesticides in orchards. • Adjust nutrient management and crop rotations to include legumes to offset use of petroleum-based nitrogen fertilizer. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the Integrated Fruit Production Network project. |
| Land Management Element | | | |
| Renewable energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high cost of energy and limited supplies of oil threaten economic viability of agriculture and the national energy supply • Efforts to capture energy from agriculture through bio-mass and other means can result in trade-offs: some of these trade-offs are positive (less dependence on imports; less greenhouse gas emitted from | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction & adoption of sound technology can alter economics of energy supplies and potential to contribute to area energy supply while addressing global warming. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support Sherman County Wind Farmers projects with Rural Development Value-Added & Oregon Dept Energy renewable energy programs. • Collaborate with Mid-Columbia Economic Development Dist, and other organization to establish a multi-county renewable energy zone. |

Wy'East RC& D Elements - Resource Concerns & Opportunities

| Sub-Elements | Resource Concerns | Opportunities | Possible Action by Wy'East |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | farms and ranches; some potentially negative such as increased removal of crop residue from fields. | | |
| Energy Efficiency/Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation pump system can use excessive energy based upon age, maintenance, design efficiency of pump system. • Conventional tillage and cropping systems require high energy inputs both direct fuel costs and indirect energy costs via fertilizer & chemicals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers to make irrigation pump system more energy efficient using Bonneville Power Administration, Oregon Department of Energy and USDA energy efficiency programs. • Adjust irrigation timing to directly reduce energy consumption as well as other resource concerns. • Increase on-farm indirect energy conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue The Dalles Irrig. Dist. Energy Conservation project. • Expand the Water & Economics Optimization project. • Cooperate with BPA, EnSave and National Assoc RC&D Councils to initiate agriculture energy efficiency program. • Assist agriculture producers to convert to bio-fuels, such as ethanol and bio-diesel • Assist agriculture producers to recycle lubricants and other petroleum-based material to reduce demand for petroleum. |
| Protection of agriculture land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low economic profitability & land use constraints hinders transfer to family members & discourage conservation • Bend, Redmond, Prineville and Hood River are under pressure for agriculture land being converted to ranchettes and vacation and recreational property. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserving farmland and balancing development pressures, private property right and regional opportunities and needs. | Utilize NRCS Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) and other easement programs. |
| Fish and wildlife habitat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species habitat and populations are threatened. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition for clean, plentiful water for fish and wildlife mandates water conservation on irrigated row | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Blackstone Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration |

Wy'East RC& D Elements - Resource Concerns & Opportunities

| Sub-Elements | Resource Concerns | Opportunities | Possible Action by Wy'East |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered fish and wildlife negatively affected by low stream flow from irrigation water withdrawals. • Reduction in riparian vegetation reduces fish and wildlife habitat. • Human activities have altered or eliminated wildlife habitat such as, beaver ponds, glides, large cobble/boulder riffles, small cobble/gravel riffles, pool tailouts, primary pools and off-channel habitat. | <p>crops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife damage and mitigation assistance for agricultural and timber production. | |
| Land Conservation Element | | | |
| Control erosion and sedimentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce or eliminate tillage and manage residues to reduce fuel use and improve soil, water, and air quality. • Soil erosion and organic matter loss on working agriculture land • Farmers & ranchers need financing & business models to adopt new technologies, crops and production methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture adopts new technology and models to adopt precision agriculture. • Adopt cropping and tillage systems that minimizes erosion and organic matter that benefit water quality and quantity. • Farmers & ranchers adopt energy conservation technology such as auto steer using GPS, new oilseed crops, forage crops that use less water, and other innovations from Oregon State University. • Identify the conservation effects of conservation practices designed to reduce soil erosion and improve | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Watershed Health Planning to other watersheds like Lower Crooked River Watershed Health Plan. • Assist conservation districts & watershed councils to implement strategies to provide landowners with information, technical and financial assistance through NRCS programs. • Identify technologies and funding opportunities to accelerate precision agriculture benefiting agriculture. |

Wy'East RC& D Elements - Resource Concerns & Opportunities

| Sub-Elements | Resource Concerns | Opportunities | Possible Action by Wy'East |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| | | water quality. | |
| Range & forest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juniper is encroaching onto rangeland and ponderosa pine sites affecting range productivity and wildlife habitat. • Native range vegetation invaded by noxious weeds like mudusa head and cheatgrass with negative affect on hydrology and wildlife habitat. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop renewable energy use for juniper. • Manage rangeland using innovative grazing management processes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support efforts of the Juniper Group, and Weed Districts that combats invasive species and their impacts on agriculture. • Identify opportunities for microenterprise development. |

Goals – Objectives – Strategies

Wy'East envisions communities and individuals to protect, restore, enhance and sustain communities and natural resources. To bring that vision into reality, Wy'East mission invests in people, partnerships and resources to achieve solutions leading to a sustainable future in the Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon. This vision and mission will be accomplished by the implementation of the following goals, objectives and strategies.

Goal A: Community Development

Collaborate with organizations and individuals to sustain Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon communities. Integrate a balanced and vibrant economy, strong communities, and a healthy environment without trading one essential element for another. Measure the qualitative recognizable changes in the community's condition in 2012.

Objective A.1: Microenterprise Development Assistance

Accelerate the use of “community assets” to capture the passion and skills of self-motivated entrepreneurs. Create and expand 65 microenterprises that results in a resilient economy that provides a diversity of good economic opportunities for all citizens by 2012.

Element: community development

Strategies:

A.1.a Continue the Central Oregon MicroEnterprise Facilitation project by providing one-on-one coaching to new startups and existing microenterprises; starting in 2008.

A.1.b Assist natural resource enterprises to plan and develop value-added products and niche markets; starting in 2008.

Objective A.2: Local Community Development Planning

Work in partnership with communities to move toward their goals and objectives to develop facilities and services, which benefit public safety, housing, transportation, communication, education and health care. Assist five communities in a cooperative planning process by 2012.

Element: community development

Strategies:

A.2.a Facilitate five Planning Charrettes with public and private organizations to address community changes. A charrette is a collaborative planning process that harnesses the talents and energies of all interested parties, which lead to consensus for the community starting in 2008.

A.2.a Continue Wasco 911 Call Center. Complete by 2012.

Objective A.3: Community Capacity Building.

Develop or participate in community capacity building to sustain over a long period of time motivated and committed local leaders to keep the community development process going. Complete by 2012

Element: community development

Strategies:

A.3.a Assist rural communities in their efforts to train and encourage people into leadership positions.

A.3.b Facilitate and train community members in processes of managing or resolving differences among or between community members or between a community and an external entity.

A.3.c Facilitate and train facilitation techniques to help organizations move forward toward their goals and objectives.

Objective A.4: Conservation education.

Provide education curriculum to local schools about natural resource by 2012.

Element: community development

Strategies:

A.4.a Initiate a conservation education program that meets the needs of rural schools students by 2012.

Goal B Cooperative Watershed Health Conservation

Seek and promote partnerships in Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon communities through outreach and open channels of communication among stakeholders to develop watershed health plans. Measure the qualitative recognizable changes in the community's condition in 2012.

Cooperative Conservation uses our experience to expand efforts to broaden conservation partnerships and build new alliances to make our actions more efficient. Additionally, Cooperative Conservation involves the collaborative activity to solve a common problem or achieve a common objective between multiple stakeholders: Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, private for-profit and nonprofit institutions, other nongovernmental entities and individuals.

Objective B.1: Watershed health collaborative planning

Accelerate cooperative conservation to increase public and private organizations' ability to meet local, economic, social, and natural environmental needs through collaborative planning and problem solving through 2012. Measure the qualitative recognizable changes in the community's condition related to social, economic and environmental conditions.

Element: Community Development

Strategies

B.1.a Facilitate the Oregon Technical Assistance Committee Basin Working Group provide basin-level collaboration on natural resources conservation, reach public and private organizations, leverage market based funding opportunities, provide inter-watershed communications, starting in 2008.

B.1.b Collaborate with organizations to protect and conserve natural resources and environmental qualities in the basin.

Objective B.2: Integrated Fruit Production

Operate and expand Mid-Columbia orchard growers' use of the Integrated Fruit Production Network (IFPnet), a network of 95 weather stations and decision support models to make pest/disease management decisions to improve water quality to meet Oregon water quality standards from entering rivers and streams by 2012.

Measurement of water quality is indicated by the reduced use of organophosphates on 20,000 acres of orchards and the elimination of organophosphate pesticides.

Definition: Integrated Fruit Production (IFP) is an economical production of high quality fruit, which gives priority to ecologically sound methods, minimizes side effects, and use of agricultural chemicals, thereby protecting the environment and human health (Hood River District Integrated Fruit Production Program).

Element: Water Management

Strategies:

B.2.a Maintain, operate and expand existing Integrated Fruit Production Network Operations. Complete by 2011.

B.2.b Continue Buck Hollow Watershed Monitoring. Complete by 2011

B.2.c Continue Mill Creek Watershed Monitoring. Complete by 2011

B.2.d Continue Mid-Columbia Hood Watershed Water Quality Monitoring (Spray Drift). Complete by 2009.

B.2.e Continue IFPnet Marketing (American Farmland Trust). Complete by 2009.

B.2.f Cooperate with public and private organizations in planning and conducting educational activities to inform orchard growers about integrated fruit production technologies, resources, and programs. Start 2007.

B.2.g Facilitate one Planning Charrette with orchard growers, and agri-businesses, which lead to integrated fruit production projects starting in 2008.

Objective B.3: Precision Agriculture

Accelerate the adoption of precision agriculture production technologies and best management practices on farm and ranches by 2012.

Element: Land Conservation

Definition: Precision farming or precision agriculture is an agricultural concept relying on the existence of in-field variability. It requires the use of new technologies, such as global positioning (GPS), sensors, satellites or aerial images, and information management tools (GIS) to assess and understand variations. Collected information more precisely evaluates optimum planting density, estimates fertilizers and other input needs, and more accurately predict crop yields.

Increase the profitability, efficiency and competitiveness of agriculture that better account for on-farm direct and indirect energy use and optimize production inputs. Practice includes the following; yield monitors, auto steer, and carbon sequestration, which allow producers to maintain or improve profits, produce high quality food, and reduce adverse environmental impacts to soil, water and carbon sequestration.

Strategies

B.3.a Facilitate five Planning Charrettes with public and private organizations to address precision agriculture opportunities starting in 2008.

B.3.b Continue Carbon Probe business development. Complete by 2009.

Goal C: Agricultural Energy Management

Optimize on-farm energy management in Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon agriculture by reducing direct and indirect energy production inputs, increasing energy conservation and efficiency, and developing renewable energy. Measured by long-term progress in recognizable changes in on-farm energy management by 2012.

Agricultural energy management can reduce production costs and have the potential to provide a new source of income and bolster farm and rural economies. Agricultural energy management addresses energy use. Managing energy can decrease reliance on fossil fuels while improving environmental quality and reducing farm and ranch production costs. Producers on farms and ranches face higher energy prices for their energy intensive inputs of direct energy, such as fuel or electricity and indirect energy, such as embedded farming inputs and implements, and the resources used to manufacture and transport fertilizer and chemicals to the farm.

On-farm energy use, conservation, and renewable energy sources are linked to natural resource concerns including water quantity and quality, soil erosion, organic matter, and air quality. On-farm energy generation also presents an excellent opportunity for producers to reduce their dependence on purchased energy supplies.

Objective C.1: Renewable Energy Generation

Accelerate the development of community or locally owned renewable energy projects such as wind, biofuels, biomass, small hydro and geothermal. The outcome results in the generation of 50 megawatts of renewable energy beginning by 2012.

Element: Land Management

Increased on-farm energy generation for on-farm use or for sale to energy grids has the potential of substantial energy savings for the country. Many of these energy-generating activities, such as wind, solar, and geothermal generators can add additional long-term revenue to rural communities. Further, as technology advances continue, the feasibility for farm and ranch application improves.

Strategies

- C.1.a Facilitate two Planning Charrettes with farmers and ranchers, and organizations that lead to renewable energy projects starting in 2008.
- C.1.b Continue to support Sherman County Wind Farmers II – V with the development of a 30-megawatt commercial wind farm owned and operated by farmers by 2009.
- C.1.c Continue to support Great Plains Oil & Exploration to establish camelina as an oilseed crop to produce biodiesel by 2009.
- C.1.d Continue Community Forestry for biomass renewable energy production. Complete by 2011.
- C.1.e Continue Solar Hot Water Heater business development. Complete by 2009.
- C.1.f Continue to collaborate with Mid-Columbia Economic Development District Columbia River Gorge Renewable Energy Council, and other organizations to establish a multi-county renewable energy zone started in 2005 and ongoing.
- C.1.g Cooperate with public and private organizations in planning and conducting educational activities to inform agriculture producers about renewable energy technologies, resources, and programs starting in 2008.
- C.1.h Support research, development, and demonstrations for renewable energy feedstock production practices and production facilities by 2012.

Objective C.2: Agriculture Energy Efficiency & Conservation

Accelerate the adoption of appropriate agriculture energy efficiency, conservation technologies, and best management practices on 50 farms and ranches to increase the profitability, efficiency and competitiveness by 2012.

Element: Land Management

Energy efficiency can have a direct affect on Columbia River Gorge, Mid-Columbia and Central Oregon farm and ranch irrigators. Efficient irrigation

equipment is essential to the viability of farms and ranches, especially in times of high-energy costs,

According to USDA's *2003 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey*, energy costs for pump systems average \$36 per irrigated acre. Farmers spent an additional \$12 per acre, on average, to maintain and repair irrigation equipment. (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2003). Irrigation pumping waste of about 25 percent is due to poor pump and motor efficiency.

Strategies

C.2.a Continue existing Water and Economic Optimization Project to optimize irrigation water management and inputs by 2009.

C.2.b Continue existing The Dalles Irrigation District energy efficiency and water conservation project by 2012.

C.2.c Increase the efficiency of irrigation pumping systems for on-farm energy efficiency audits to conserve 1 million kilowatt hours of energy starting in 2008.

C.2.d Cooperate with public and private organizations, with interest in energy, to advocate with local, state and federal policy makers.

Goal (Impact) D: Effective Non-profit Management.

Build an effective board and diverse based of knowledgeable, skilled and motivated citizen leaders by 2012

Objective D.1: Marketing Wy'East.

Effectively market Wy'East projects to targeted audiences to increase community support for our mission, measured by support and participation for Wy'East by 2011.

Element: Other

Strategies

D.1.a Develop Strategic Communications strategy. Complete by 2009

D.1.b Maintain a professional internet presence through our web site. Display information, news, create community, share alternatives to donating money, and showcase benefits of Wy'East programs.

D.1.c Research and maintain targeted customer databases for special mailings, follow-up telephone calls, event invitations, alliance development, research profiling and market segmentation.

D.1.d Show and market the results and outcomes that Wy'East achieves.

Objective D.2: Operations

Manage programs and projects to accomplish Wy'East vision and mission by achieving measurable outcomes starting in 2007.

Element: Other

Strategies

D.2.a Annually update Annual Plan of Work based on Wy'East Strategic Area Plan. Complete by 2012.

D.2.b Improve Wy'East performance as an effective nonprofit organizing starting in 2008.

D.2.c Put into place management policy and systems that increases the effectiveness, starting in 2007.

Objective D.3: Financial Management

Continue to manage Wy'East financial affairs consistent with nonprofit accounting standards starting in 2008.

Element: Other

Strategies

D.3.a Conduct annually a financial audit or financial review.

| Active Projects December 2008 | Project Number | Project Status | Approved Date | Estimated Completion Date |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Buck Hallow Watershed Monitoring | 37 | Active | 1/1/2003 | 12/31/2010 |
| Mill Creek Watershed Monitoring | 38 | Active | 1/1/2003 | 12/31/2010 |
| Crook County Paired Watershed Study | 68 | Active | 1/1/2004 | 12/31/2007 |
| Consensus Institute | 76 | Active | 12/14/2003 | 9/29/2007 |
| Water Economic Optimization Project | 80 | Active | 9/10/2004 | 9/29/2007 |
| Micro-enterprise Facilitation | 82 | Active | 1/1/2005 | 12/31/2007 |
| Renewable Energy Council | 92 | | | |
| Mid-Columbia Hood Watershed Water Quality Monitoring (Spray Drift) | 87 | Active | 7/22/2005 | 7/27/2008 |
| Columbia River Gorge Renewable Energy Council | 092 | Active | 1/22/2004 | 12/31/2009 |
| Community Forestry | 100 | Active | 8/25/2005 | 12/31/2010 |
| IFPnet Marketing | 114 | Active | 3/1/2006 | 2/29/2008 |
| IFPnet Operations | 115 | Active | 1/26/2006 | 12/31/2011 |
| Wasco 911 Call Center | 116 | Active | 8/30/2006 | 12/31/2011 |
| Sherman Precision Agriculture | 117 | Active | 12/21/2006 | 09/31/2011 |
| Watershed Health - Lower Crooked River | 118 | Active | 12/21/2006 | 12/31/2009 |
| Sherman County Wind Farmers II - V | 119 | Active | 12/21/2006 | 12/31/2009 |
| Cooperative Technical Assistance | 120 | Active | 10/1/2006 | 9/31/2007 |
| Wy'East Strategic Area Plan | 121 | Active | 2/8/2007 | 12/31/2007 |
| Strategic Communications | 123 | Active | 2/8/2007 | 12/31/2008 |
| Carbon Probe | 124 | Active | 9/15/2007 | 12/31/2008 |
| Solar Hot Water Heater | 125 | Active | 9/15/2007 | 12/31/2008 |
| The Dalles Irrigation Dist Energy Efficiency | 126 | Active | 10/15/2007 | 12/31/2011 |
| Camelina Marketing | 127 | Active | 11/15/2007 | 12/31/2008 |
| Trout Creed Culvert Replacement | 128 | Active | 10/15/2007 | 12/31/2011 |
| Blackstone Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration | 129 | Active | 10/15/2007 | 12/31/2010 |

Current and Potential Partnerships with USDA and Others

This section identifies the current and potential partnerships.

| Wy'East Partners | |
|---|---|
| Organization | Partnership Role |
| Local Government | |
| Crook County | Wy'East Council member, project partner |
| Deschutes County | Wy'East Council member, project partner |
| Jefferson County | Wy'East Council member, project partner |
| Wasco County | Wy'East Council member, project partner |
| Crook Soil & Water Conservation District | Wy'East Council member, project partner |
| Deschutes Soil & Water Conservation District | Wy'East Council member, project partner |
| Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District | Wy'East Council member, project partner |
| Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District | Wy'East Council member, project partner |
| Wasco Soil & Water Conservation District | Wy'East Council member, project partner |
| City of Maupin | Wy'East Council member, project partner |
| Central Oregon Council of Governments | Project Partner |
| Mid-Columbia Council of Government | Project Partner |
| Tribal Government | |
| Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs | Wy'East Council member, project partner |
| State Government Agencies | |
| Oregon Department of Energy | Technical assistance, project partner |
| Oregon Department of Agriculture | Technical assistance |
| Oregon Department of Water Resources | Technical assistance |
| Oregon Department of Community & Economic Development | Technical assistance |
| Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife | Technical assistance, project partner |
| Federal Agencies | |
| Natural Resources Conservation Service (Oregon) | Technical assistance & project funding |
| Rural Development (Oregon) | Project funding |
| Farm Service Agency | Project partner |
| Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 | Project funding |
| Forest Service - Ochoco National Forest | Advisor to Wy'East Council |
| Bonneville Power Administration | Project funding |
| Northwest Power & Conservation Council | Project funding |
| Portland General Electric | Project funding |
| Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board | Project funding |
| University/ College | |
| Oregon State University – Ag Engineering Dept | Technical assistance, project partner |
| Hood River Extension Service | Technical assistance |
| Wasco Extension Service | Technical assistance |
| Sherman Extension Service | Technical assistance |
| Crook Extension Service | Technical assistance, project partner |
| Portland State University | Technical assistance, project partner |
| Food Innovation Center | Technical assistance, project partner |
| Mid-Columbia Agriculture Research and Extension Center | Technical assistance, project partner |
| Foundations | |
| American Farmland Trust | Financial assistance |
| Meyer Memorial Trust | Financial assistance |
| Nonprofit Organizations | |
| Oregon Trout | Financial assistance, project partner |
| Hood River Growers & Shippers | Financial assistance, project partner |
| Wasco County Fruit & Produce League | Financial assistance, project partner |
| Mid-Columbia Economic Development Dist | Project partner |
| Columbia Gorge Comm College Small Business Development Center | Project partner |
| Warm Springs Community Action Team | Project partner |
| Oregon Microenterprise Network | Project supporter |
| National Association of Resource Conservation & Development | Member |

| Wy'East Partners | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Organization | Partnership Role |
| Oregon Association of Resource Conservation & Development | Member |
| PacRim Resource Conservation & Development Association | Member |
| GeoVisions | Financial assistance, project partner |
| Altria | Financial assistance, project partner |
| Business | |
| Great Plains Oil & Exploration | Project partner |
| EnSave | Project partner |
| Western Wind Power | Project partner |
| Mike Davis | Project partner |
| Wade Flegel | Project partner |
| Rex Barber | Project partner |
| Jack Cochran | Project partner |
| Underwood Fruit | Financial Assistance IFP Project |
| Duckwall Fruit | Financial Assistance IFP Project |
| Diamond Fruit | Financial Assistance IFP Project |
| Wilbur Ellis | Financial Assistance IFP Project |
| Orchard View Farms | Financial Assistance IFP Project |
| GS Long | Financial Assistance IFP Project |
| Chamberlain Distributing | Financial Assistance IFP Project |
| Oregon Cherry Growers | Financial Assistance IFP Project |
| Stadelman Fruit | Financial Assistance IFP Project |
| Zirkle Fruit | Financial Assistance IFP Project |

Linkage to the NRCS Strategic Plan

This table identifies the NRCS overarching strategies, mission goals, and outcomes the previously outlined goals of the Strategic Area Plan will address.

| Compatibility with NRCS Strategic Plan 2005-2012 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|--------|---------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|-----------------|----------|---------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------|
| Wy'East Goals & Objectives | Overarching Strategies | | | Mission Goals | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Cooperative Conservation | Watershed Health | Market | Soil Quality | Water Qua | Water Mgt | Grass Range Forest Eco | Fish & Wildlife | Wetlands | Air Qua | Energy Cons | Renweable Egeny | Connected Landscapes | Other |
| A Community Development | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A.1 Microenterprise Development Assistance | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| A.2 Local Community Development Planning | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| A.3 Conservation education. | | X | | | | | | | | | | | X | |
| B Cooperative Watershed Health Conservation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B.1 Watershed health collaborative planning | X | | | | | | | | | | | | X | |
| B.2 Integrated Fruit Production | | X | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| C Agricultural Energy Management | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C.1 Renewable Energy Generation | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| C.2 Agriculture Energy Efficiency & Conservation | | | X | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| C.3 Precision Agriculture | | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| D Effective Non-profit Management. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D.1 Marketing Wy'East | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |

Required Clauses and Signatures

The *Wy'East* RC&D Council agrees that the RC&D Program will be conducted in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A and B) that provide that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial (or technical) assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

The *Wy'East* RC&D Council agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with Federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for non-procurement, suspension, and debarment, and State review.

The *Wy'East* RC&D Council hereby adopts this RC&D Area Plan and agrees to use effectively the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to realize the goals and objectives outlined herein.

Wy'East Resource Conservation & Development Council, Oregon

By: _____ Date: _____
Chairperson

Attest: _____
Council Secretary

This action authorized at an official meeting of the *Wy'East* RC&D Council on
(Date) _____

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Area Plan of _____ as meeting the requirements under Public Law 97-98 to receive assistance from USDA.

Acknowledged By: _____ Date: _____
State Conservationist