

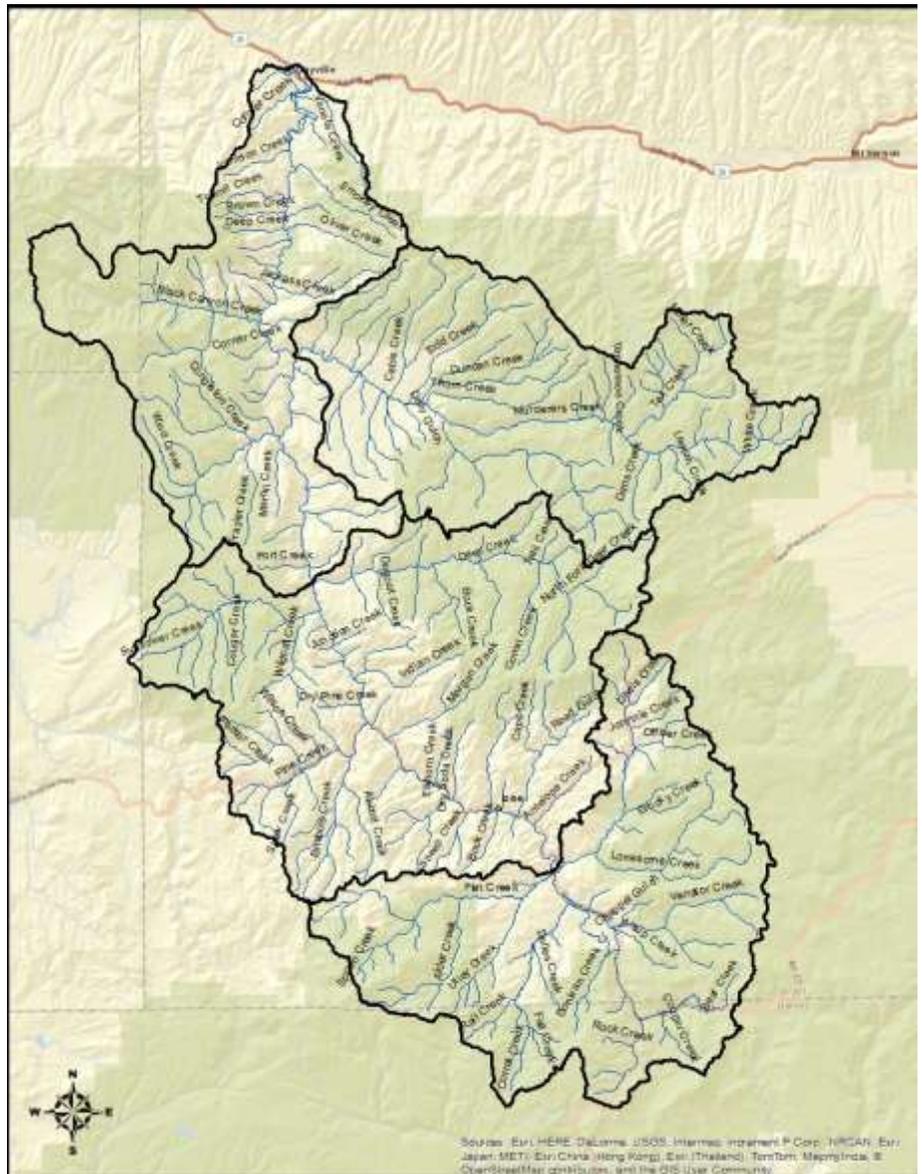
South Fork John Day Watershed Council to Receive \$1.7 Million in funding to assist Agricultural Producers

The South Fork John Day Watershed Council in partnership with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, is excited to announce that they have been awarded \$1,714,286 in Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding, to support a resilient, healthy watershed for agricultural producers.

Starting in 2021, funding will be available to all agricultural producers within the South Fork John Day Watershed. This funding will provide financial assistance for privately owned lands to increase beneficial habitat through; 1) removal of Western Juniper, 2) thinning overstocked forests, 3) promoting native and beneficial vegetation over annual grasses and noxious weeds 4) protection & enhancement of Quaking Aspen through conifer removal, 4) providing reliable off-channel upland water, and 5) strategic grazing rotations. This funding will also assist agricultural producers in improving the health and productivity of their range and forest lands by supporting the strategic planning of restoration actions and comprehensive grazing planning.

Project partners include South Fork John Day Watershed landowners, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Grant SWCD Weed Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Starting in 2021, Funding will be available for landowners in the geographic region shown in the map to the right.



General Information on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- RCPP is a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land.
- By leveraging collective resources and collaborating on common goals, RCPP demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for agriculture and conservation.
- NRCS is investing \$206 million in 48 partner-driven conservation projects across 29 states through its Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Partners are making nearly \$300 million in contributions.
- NRCS and the South Fork John Day Watershed Council are leveraging a combined \$3.4M in Oregon to improve and restore agricultural lands in the watershed.
- The South Fork John Day Watershed Council has been awarded 1 of the 3, 2019 RCPP Classic grants awarded in Oregon.
- For more information on this program please visit [the RCPP website](#).

QUOTE FROM NRCS CHIEF MATTHEW LOHR

“I’m excited to announce the first RCPP awards under the 2018 Farm Bill,” said NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr. “Through collaboration and aligning our resources toward a common goal, we’re making an impact for natural resource conservation that could never have been realized on our own.”

For more information please contact Amy Stiner, South Fork John Day Watershed Council Executive Director, 541-792-0435, astiner@outlook.com, or Aaron Roth, Natural Resource Conservation Service, District Conservationist, 541-575-0135 ext. 113, aaron.roth@usda.gov

More information can also be found on the South Fork John Day Watershed Council’s website, www.southforkjohnday.com.