

Economic \$ of Conservation

North Slope Ochoco Holistic Restoration Project Wheeler County, Oregon

5-year Economic Impact (2015 - 2019)

\$4.2 million invested by NRCS

(Federal taxpayer dollars allocated to Wheeler County)



\$7 million invested by partners

(Existing state/local funds re-allocated to Wheeler County)

CREATES

\$3.9 million in additional
economic activity (total output)

(New money spent in the local economy as a result of NRCS federal investment. Includes supplies, equipment, labor, and other purchases of goods and services)



\$2.7 million Total Economic Stimulus
in Wheeler County (total value added)

(Includes increases in business profits, net tax revenue to local government, and employee compensation)



58 jobs created or sustained

(Includes mixture of full-time and part-time jobs)

About the Project

The North Slope Ochoco Holistic Restoration Project is a five-year, comprehensive conservation project that will improve water quantity and quality, restore fish and wildlife habitat, improve forest and rangeland health, and sustain agricultural productivity in Wheeler County. The project targets three watersheds in the Lower John Day Basin: Mountain Creek, Bridge Creek, and Cherry Creek. These watersheds comprise 345,298 acres, and 66 percent of that land is privately-owned. The project area contains 65% rangeland, 30% dense forested stands, and 5% irrigated cropland. The project will use innovative Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to target priority treatment areas in a ridgetop to ridgetop manner. Conservation work includes:

- Pre-commercial timber thinning
- Irrigation efficiency projects
- Conservation easements
- Juniper removal
- Range restoration
- Water spring developments
- Riparian restoration
- Critical habitat restoration

Partners

- Private landowners, farmers and ranchers
- Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.or.nrcs.usda.gov

Wheeler County, OR Quick Facts

1,381 Population

1,715 square miles of land area

\$37,974 median household income

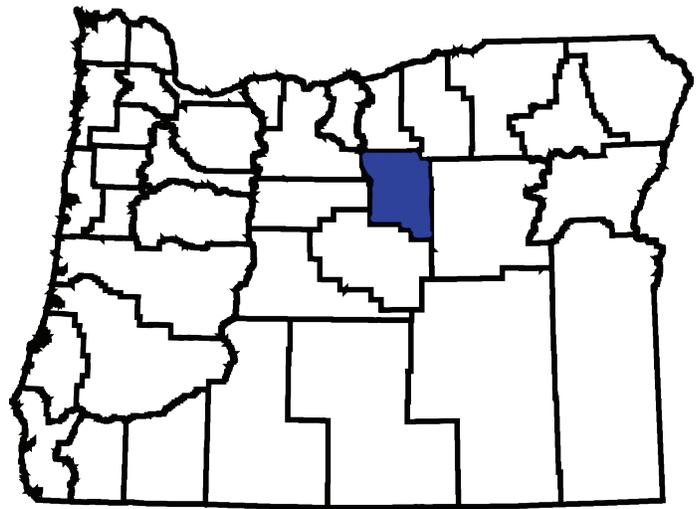
649,086 acres total farm land

4,242 acres average farm size

24,833 acres total cropland

10,357 acres irrigated land

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Longterm Conservation Benefits:

- Irrigation efficiency (water quantity)
- Improved riparian stream conditions (water quality)
- Restored and improved fish and wildlife habitat
- Increased forage quality and quantity
- Better water infiltration, healthy soils
- Enhanced real estate values and scenic viewshed
- Reduced erosion
- Reduced wildfire hazard
- Reduced risk of damage caused by catastrophic wildfire

Breakdown: Economic Impacts of NRCS Oregon Investment

Source: Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN) model

NRCS Program	Federal Cost	Direct Wheeler County Impacts	Total Output	Total Value Added	Direct Jobs per Year	Total Jobs over 5 Years	Jobs per \$1M of Federal Cost	Federal Cost to Value Added Multiplier	Federal Cost to Output Multiplier
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	\$2,641,363	\$2,552,194	\$3,244,060	\$2,362,027	43.9	51.5	19.5	0.89	1.23
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	\$1,200,000	\$320,706	\$400,258	\$206,052	4.4	5.3	4.42	0.17	0.33
NRCS Technical Assistance	\$323,637	\$176,208	\$214,633	\$160,864	0.9	1.4	4.33	0.50	0.66
Totals	\$4,165,000	\$3,049,108	\$3,858,951	\$2,728,943	49.2	58.2	13.97	0.66	0.93

How are economic impacts calculated?

NRCS economists used the Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN) model to calculate economic impacts of this project. This is a sophisticated, input-output model widely used by economists that traces the linkages among economic sectors in a study area through the purchase or sale of goods and services.

What do job estimates mean?

Job estimates reported here include both *new jobs* (if the job did not exist before and unemployed labor is hired) and *sustained jobs* (if currently employed labor is hired or retained with the expenditure). It is not possible to determine how many jobs are new or how many would have existed without NRCS expenditures. Job estimates represent a mix of full-time

permanent, full-time temporary and part-time jobs. Each job represents one employee per year as a full-time equivalent (FTE) expenditure. These jobs are supported by the construction of conservation practices, not by longterm benefits of conservation.

Applicability: The economic impacts reported here only apply to expenditures through NRCS conservation programs and the estimated allocation of those funds to specific conservation practices through the life of the project. These multipliers should not be applied to NRCS expenditures at the national, state or county level, or to expenditures from any other USDA program. This analysis does not include economic impacts of partner investments or private landowner expenditures.