

Online Participants

Chet Fitzgerald – NRCS
Jennifer Marken – NRCS
Elise Rose – WACD Lovell
Cheyenne Love – WACD Campbell
Bridgette Helms – WACD Sundance,
Chace Tavelli – Wyoming Water Development
Jonathan Sloan – Wyoming State Forestry Division
Ryan Fieldgrove – WACD Johnson
Shaun Kirkwood – WACD Laramie,
James Bauchert – NRCS,
Tim Becket – NRCS
Nolan Rap – Governor’s Office, Policy Advisor
Catherine Hadley – NRCS
Leah Burgess – Rocky Mountain Elk
Kyle Balint – Trout Unlimited,
Sarah Anderson – Crook County Natural Resources
Anita Bartlett – WACD Kaycee
Sage Askin – WYSGA
Cameron McIntyre (Shoshone CD)

In Person

Jackie Byam – NRCS
Andi Neugebauer – NRCS
Katie Vaporis – NRCS
Alyssa Ludeke- NRCS
Judy Sambrano – NRCS
Mindy Meade – Wyoming Weed & Pest
Abby Scott – Nature Conservancy
Karen Kraft – Nature Conservancy
Deena McDaniels – FSA
Annie Bryce – FSA
Brian Jensen – NRCS
Shawn Follum – NRCS
Lindsey Woodward (WDA)

Welcomes and thank you for joining from Jackie!

IRA Summary

8 years to spend all the money. Only core practices, no new practices. Expanding existing climate efforts, focus on mitigation.

Annie Bryce – How do you figure out the Historically underserved?

Jackie – Looking at program data to determine where we need to do more outreach.

Unmet demand but focus on those we haven’t worked with.

Ask for partners for any science to back up why we should request practices to be added to IRA. To add justification, must be peer reviewed.

....

Facilitating Practices Enable Mitigation (will post on Website):

Categories: Soil Health
Cons. Cover
Cons. Crop

Mitigation Enhancements

(Handout)

Orange new for 2023.

Not starting from square 1.

- Building on past work
- Capacity challenge framework
- Chief's budget

IRA Funding –

- 23 Equip - \$1,273,166 mil
- FY22 – CSP - \$1,835,651 mil

Expiration date - expended by 2031

Major focus areas for success

- Staffing Capacity
- Program Deliver
- .

30 add 'l people – try to get to 145 Staffed

Critical backfiles

Hiring challenges

Dist of new staff

Program – Delivery

- Innovation
- Act now
- IRA is not a new “program”
- New day in NRCS

On the ground right away.

Topic for upcoming Tech mtg –

- Make us look ahead – plan for future

Partnerships –

- Traditional
- Innovative
- New Partners
- Expand HU/SD Partnership
- Expand Tribal Nations Partnerships

State Tech IRA Subgroup Meeting on May 17th, 2023, 9:00-12:00, NRCS State Office Casper WY

Urban – grants compost grant
WY received 2 grants – How train / training needs

Questions for consideration – How train / Build

What other activities can be taken to train and build the skills of existing and new staff.

Abbey – IRA funds not rolled in farm bill – but using – different funding lasts 5 years.

Jackie – 23 Farm Bill underway, need out there, utilizing existing programs. Key difference – fund on large side

Increase Engineering needs – 10 now going to 20

RCP – increase maximum, streamline, take out hurdles, things looked at closely. Training.

Katie – hire more.

Questions??

Kyle – irrigation Water management

Andi – currently address carbon sequestration (?), looking at adding irrigation water that will work anywhere.

Kyle – Provision – what process to get elevated?

Andi – Waiting on Bulletin w/ guidance – was due on 15th
Sent to Andi – will look at.

Jackie – data hungry – try to streamline in CART. Please send data our way – to support theories.

Jackie ? – Will add list in chat – and list to those in room.

Ryan – Partner help – spec. as Cons.

How do you see able to support – cert planners? How to help area conservationists?
Best way to approach?

Jackie – Kelli/WACD – CRP status reduce

Engineering Asst.

Jackie – agreement w/ capacity. If not have ability now – willing to support. Most of our staff trained – willing to train – reimbursed through agreement. Want to reward those willing to work.

Jackie – Maybe talked in Meeteetse.

State Tech IRA Subgroup Meeting on May 17th, 2023, 9:00-12:00, NRCS State Office Casper WY

Kyle – Like umbrella approach.

Female ? – Are we entertaining – Wy Weed Pest?

Jackie – Open to anything – if we can tie it to a need and get money out door to get projects on ground. ALE assistance. Next year ASAR ARE IRA. Asked for 10 million each – work to go along with easements.

Options – NIF willing to help, 1WJB – willing to help. Where to move forward?

Chase - ? mitigating practices, how often used? Popular? Requests?

Refer to Katie Vaporis – Quite a few frequent – some WY use not on list. Cover crop/conservation cover/wildlife friendly.

Katie – fence – Big one we do. Some on here – encouraged – want to get others added.

Andi – good – herbaceous weed control. We need to change thought process.

Kyle ? -IRA/RCP general timeframe?

Katie – not yet – hopefully by July meeting.

Jackie – still working on logistics. What concerns do you have? 100, positive – successful.

Ryan – think we answered. Clarity in defining, implementation to be successful. Detail/Communicate successfully/same unified effort to provide good support.

Jackie – Concerns/thoughts?

Female ? – If working – disperse to districts?

Jackie – If we do agreement – i.e. Status reviews, district participate/submit bill. District may associate on, we pay district.

Shawn – Lot of practices we don't use – get word out.

Annie – CRP workload / great.

Jackie – CRP – general fund. Big game, sage grouse, CRP easements. IRA just portion of it, overall is what we are looking for. We need partnership. What are we doing for producers?

Anita ? – Program? IRA money.

Jackie – No general dollars, not tagged as sagebrush. Johnson Co. cap on how long in it?

Andi – Number of years for that.

State Tech IRA Subgroup Meeting on May 17th, 2023, 9:00-12:00, NRCS State Office Casper WY

Jackie – Prescribed grazing, enhancements, core practices. We can turn around and sign up CSP. Maintain Quality.

Andi – Sagegrouse – had to defer grazing to ensure – prescribed grazing, others defer in certain areas.

Brian – Nestings.

Jackie – Opportunities to enhance a bit more. Add more range related – not a lot – if ideas to enhance tied to enhancements, practice codes. E – stands enhancement. Taking in enhancements to be utilized in the West.

? Create practice code for virtual.

Andi – Being looked at – every state looking at it, holding pattern.

Anything send on happy to share.

Annie – Don't want fencing, want wide open spaces. Tribe interested.

Jackie – Some suggestions brought forward, range riding into practice enhancement instead of practice.

Annie – Another issue, cousins of wild horses, feral horses, impact range.

Jackie – No, not sure NRCS needs. Not sure where fits.

Annie – ACT now? New thing?

Jackie – 2 Year state pilot. Katie in contact with those states. Biggest complaint, how long it takes. First come first serve. Set number of days to rank. Very quick process. Changing of mindset of field staff, get funding out the door.

Annie – Certain range pools.

Katie – ACT Now ranking pool. In past averages. We can move quicker.

Annie – When to release? If we can give heads up – if put in newsletter to get people informed.

Jackie – ACT Now – until funds are expended.

Female ? – Increase process to sign up? Use in existing RCPP. Process to speed up.

Jackie – If want to consider – Not asap. CSP like – yes. ACT Now – convert soil health and fund code to IRA. Practices in that pool. Equip general to equip IRA.

Jackie – Thoughts/recommendations – moving funds into the future to utilize funds 2024.

Katie – Programs prefer one fund pool / state wide. Fine tune to what we want. One pool/same pool/same rankings.

Annie – Coordinator – Nat'l/State Priority. Frustration – like idea one fund. Understand priority, one off fund.

Anita – Likes idea one fund – will use and then has to wait. 1st come first serve – one fund easier – non one has to wait for money.

Shawn – one fund makes it easier.

Katie – Can request additional funds – will affect these projects. Better.

Jackie ? 's / considerations? New to Wyoming – expand outreach – how to reach these groups – those underserved, how to reach?

Annie – mailing list – smaller urban – farmers markets not on their mailing lists.

Anita ? – Utilize people friendly press releases – for average person – explain NRCS not just for pipelines – explain more small acreage on level people can understand.

Annie – Monthly newsletters – FA message from CD's – check out articles.

Alyssa – NRCS supposed to work with FSA. Gov delivery. Some better than others. CED message. County offices.

Annie – Read message to see if they want to read more. Give heads up ACT Now, ask NRCS if they have articles, each county – monthly newsletter, they send there's 1st Friday of month.

Alyssa out to people who are signed up – some may not receive.

Katie – New Outreach Coordinator – David Mosley. Reaching out, booths, get info on Farmers Markets, DC' to go to them.

Annie – Fairs at same time – local people are outreach people. Maybe not booth – go out to people.

Anita – Options – utilize UW extension or Cons Dist Newsletters. May hit those that don't come into the NRCS offices. Facebook – advertising out of box. i.e. Albany County Cattle Women.

Female – Cattle Women are overwhelmed by acronyms. Get rid of acronyms – opportunity they want what's best for families/communities.

Jackie – Understand with the acronyms.

Annie – FSA work with livestock/ conversation is there. Tumblers? Local radio?

Jackie – Illinois – great opportunity – Farmer to Farmer.

Annie – NPR, Morning Chit Chat

State Tech IRA Subgroup Meeting on May 17th, 2023, 9:00-12:00, NRCS State Office Casper WY

Alyssa – Ag News Network – interview/edit

Jackie – Recruitment ideas besides university? Career Fairs/job Fairs. Talk w/groups. Wyo Cons Corp – Credit may be offered/ contact departments – Ag @ UW.

Annie – K Nat 'l. Outdoor leadership.

Andi – National Resource Environment – Student Con. Association. (College age)

Jackie – FFA – Annual teachers – convention/ get in touch with teachers, student youth conservation corp./high schools.

Annie – 4-H is huge.

Leah – Wyo at work if we advertise.

Jackie – Looking at across the board – get into high school – lead on path. Pathways stipend/salary. All recruitment-develop pipeline.

Katie – Put bug in ears.

Jackie – Great Conversations so far. What agreements would you be interested in? to help, not just IRA?

Female – Discussion Migration Corridor – NE Wyo – program 2 people covering state/ collaboration fish/wildlife. Know sides of each program that are beneficial. State Coordinator retired – backfilling position. Opportunities to work together.

Jackie – Need Assistance, planning. Question needs or desire to add staff to assist.

Ryan – Cons Dist – most have space. Don't have budget if reimbursement- fill voids. May work one office but – distracts value/support in space/reimbursement/.

Jackie - going to Pinedale, agreements capacity.

Female – Aces in Engineering. Resource planning, interest availability. Still do their retirement, be mindful, still resource from surrounding states, people who come for winter, come in summer/telework.

Jackie – Organizations? Where do you struggle?

Annie – Dead horse – back log – looking for employees – covid/drop programs. Trying to catch up w/ temps/transitional employees.

Jackie – Other opportunities – Where is our niche? Deficiencies with NRCS/ Build upon.

Anita – Engineering – had to outsource because we couldn't do it. Geologists.

Jackie – Our 2nd geologist starts Monday. Where else?

State Tech IRA Subgroup Meeting on May 17th, 2023, 9:00-12:00, NRCS State Office Casper WY

Female - Working with bigger parentship. Land scale – producers, district know what producer to tap into.

Jackie – Soil Health – work with Association

Kyle – Echo engineering – NGO, higher level RCPP, ideas like to go ahead. Burdens are a hurdle.

Jackie – Willing to have set down/streamline.

Female – RCPP – Hearing issues.

Jackie – Not sure actions taken- if merit – RCPP meeting, existing -working on through process, make connections, what works/what doesn't.

RCPP summit? All day if interest? Willing? RCPP doing also CPP. RCPP will have only one program. Katie has experience w RCPP.

Ryan – Excellent idea, want to use it, program to work but doesn't. Should protect landscapes, help administer ill designed component. Summit will help. Natl level -NACD trying to find out doing. Chief says waiting to restore. Watching it and commend willing to do Summit.

Jackie – Get out of our own way! Great team working on it. 2 states Florida and ___ ?

Female – Recommend those in process or in the farm bill.

Jackie – Don't know – not retro.

Katie – More portal work – may take some work off.

Jackie – Chief shocked that both partnership s like RCPP. More successful – 1 on 1 relationship. Statewide/County wide? Smaller project better target – focus on area/get measured outcome. Other Activities? Options, Jake to move forward.

Ryan – Practices – fencing in consideration and practices expanded – allow research phase – pay for part of it.

Jackie – CIG? Or Cons Grants.

Ryan – Hybrid – allow practice in testing for more research. App'd. in advance – Univ/thesis possibility. Producers want to do things.

Annie – Pilot practice on Reservation.

Andi – We do research funding – Recog. Research science behind wildlife friendly fence. SE Cons effect assessment programs/funds – agreement for that.

Brian – GLCI program – funded thru, also Leap. Interim practice/movable practice/ fence 15 year. Prescribed grazing – virtual fence. Problem people buy towers – rent. Technology changing too fast.

Jackie – Ideas?

Brian talk about loosening basic eligibility.

Jackie – AGI waiver will approve areas of significant big game concern. Most in statute – Waiver options. Booth – set up booth, Farmers Marker with FSA/NRCS. Local level eligibility – comp time work booth.

DeAnne – Sign up for programs – talk to producers. Converse/Natrona partners/agencies – helpful – advertise gov delivery, bulletins, etc. Workshop days- open all days 8-4:30. Direct mailing/ one stop shop.

Katie – Local office w/know – can get things cleared up which agency.

Jackie – Have Saturday or after hours. Can make it happen with Bill (FSA).

Annie – Ag Day/ Farm Ranch days/ Pesticide courses/beekeepers. FSA/NRCS presented. Watch dog – good opportunity, outreach look at those type of things. Big Game. Agencies working together. ECP – Terri D’spain /Annie would go out, went smooth, great working Fremont County. Eligibility – Pooling ability.

Katie – Sister agencies – good to see.

Jackie – Open up, what hasn’t been asked? Concerns/questions/clarification.

Katie – IRA funding not as new different program – from different funding pool.

Jackie – Facilitating practices IRA – Soil Health separate contract.

Andi – Core can’t function without facilitating practice. Grazing.

Katie – If not mitigation – can’t mix.

Annie – Noxious weed. Not because of need – ramped funding from 1 million to 8 million. Based on IRA funding.

Our win – Facilitating Practices enable mitigation.

Anita – Johnson/Sheridan Co. weed grazing. If addresses in plan – management of weeds. Management and practice. If management needs it to work.

Jackie – Issue addressed in plan.

Brian - ?’s ASEP funding where goes – need to think prioritization locally.

Katie – GSS push – try to decide where/select certain areas? Discussions for this Fiscal Year – July conversation State Tech.

State Tech IRA Subgroup Meeting on May 17th, 2023, 9:00-12:00, NRCS State Office Casper WY

Jackie – Appreciates time everyone took to come here today. Follow-up July State Tech meetings. Programs where been coming forward. Decisions/Revamp. IRA implementation Plan.
Thank you – reach out to Jackie or team.