
ADVANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE WITH WOMEN RANCHERS IN NE OREGON

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Oregon NRCS Technical Advisory Committee
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Credit: Katie Ann Martin

AGENDA

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- Project Overview
- Goals
- Activities
- Impacts
- Lessons Learned
- Next Steps

ABOUT US



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ABOUT WOMEN FOR THE LAND

- Peer-to-peer learning
- Access to technical and financial assistance
- Research and advocacy
- Storytelling



PROJECT OVERVIEW

- 2021 Oregon CIG Award - \$89,708
 - Match sources:
 - Tillamook
 - Roundhouse Foundation
 - Patagonia
 - Miller Family Foundation
 - Emerson Collective
 - In-kind from rancher advisory members and project partners
 - Project partners: Quivira Coalition; Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network; Northeast Oregon Economic Development District; Oregon NRCS; USDA Climate Hubs; OSU; local ranchers
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PROJECT GOALS

- Develop program interventions to meet the needs and challenges faced by women ranchers in NE Oregon (Union, Baker, and Wallowa counties)
- Increase regional understanding of the needs and challenges faced by women ranchers
- Foster a connected network among women ranchers in NE Oregon
- Build capacity of ag service providers in NE Oregon to serve women ranchers



ACTIVITIES

- Virtual kick-off in April 2022
- 4 in-person Learning Circles
 - June 2022 – 6 Ranch, Enterprise
Building Community and Ranch Resilience
 - October 2022 – Buffalo Peak Land & Livestock, Union
Rangeland Strategies for Regenerative Ranching
 - June 2023 – Defrees Ranch, Baker City
Weed Management & Cover Cropping
 - October 2023 – Dora’s Garden, Union
Managing and Monitoring On-Ranch Ecology
- 1 Virtual Learning Event
Pasture Management with TomKat Ranch and Point Blue

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Quarterly advisory committee meetings
- Regular email updates to participants with resources, funding opportunities, and event information
- \$500 educational stipends to all participants
- Written profiles and stories in partnership with *Edible Communities*





IMPACTS

- 19 unique producers
 - 10 attended 1 LC
 - 9 attended 2-4 LCs
- 8 service providers (non-AFT)
 - 2 from NRCS
- Exit surveys show:
 - Increased knowledge of conservation topics
 - Likelihood of taking action

WHAT WE HEARD

“Thank you. These have been really helpful. Especially for community! I hope we can continue. So much is changing.”

“I really appreciate the information and community created by the learning circles.”

“It was a chance to get to know some women farmers in my own town and learn what they are doing with their land and hear the stories of the others not as close by but as intriguing with their goals and process. I learned tons, some of which I will apply right away like testing my soil.”



LESSONS LEARNED

- Local advisory committee = key
- Gender matters
- Women have varied experiences with local NRCS offices
- In-person > virtual
- Spaces for learning = spaces for healing
- Community connection => climate resilience



WHAT'S NEXT

- Completing final CIG deliverables
- Commitment to ongoing engagement in NE Oregon
- Ongoing conversations with OR NRCS about ways to replicate this programmatic approach in other parts of the state



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THANK YOU