

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Local Work Group Meeting
U.S. Forest Service Office
949 U.S. Highway 93 North, Eureka, Montana
August 15, 2018

Attendance:

Board of Supervisors: Darris Flanagan, Chairperson; Kathleen Johnson; Tom Maffei

Associate Supervisor(s): Laura Garner

Advisor(s): Brian Ressel, NRCS; Brian Stephens, MTFW&P; Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM

District Administrator: Becky Lihme

Guest(s):

Called to order: 3:30 p.m.

Review of Recommended Resource Concerns

- a. Forest Stewardship/Thinning
- b. Agriculture
- c. Others
- Brian Ressel explained the EQIP Program and how funding is delegated and which projects can be funded from the Farm Bill. The Local Work Group selects the resource concern from land use, resource concern or the geographic area. Noxious weeds and wild fire can be included as a concern. Brian noted to let our interests drive our program. The most popular program is fuels reduction; 90% of the applicants are fuels reduction projects. Last year forestland was ranked as the priority. In 2018, Lincoln County received \$1.3 million in funding. All our applicants were funded; the ranking did not matter. For 2019, Brian recommends fuels reduction.
- Kathleen Johnson noted fuels reduction is vastly important to our county but she would like to see noxious weeds to be listed as a priority.
- Brian Ressel responded weed management can be included with forestland projects. Weed control does not rank high. Fuels reduction would not be funded through weed control.
- Tom Maffei asked if the funding goes directly to the landowner.
- Brian Ressel responded the project is completed following NRCS specifications and USDA pays the landowner.
- Brian Ressel described the agricultural project funded for Karl Kassler.
- Darris Flanagan asked how the Kassler project was funded as an agricultural project not forestland.
- Brian Ressel explained even though the Kassler project was ranked moderate to low, however, with the large funding amount available, the project was funded.
- Laura Garner commented if 90% of our county is fuels, then go with fuels.
- It was recommended to proceed with land use – forestland.
- Kathleen Johnson asked the percentage of forestland versus agricultural owners.

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- Brian Ressel gave the website address www.nass.usda.gov to research information.

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darris Flanagan, Chairperson

Becky Lihme, District Administrator

Date: _____