

**Butte Soil and Water Conservation District and  
Blaine Soil Conservation District  
Local Working-Group Meeting  
6/17/21  
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Butte County Business Center, Arco and via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Jesse Fullmer – NRCS, Rob Sharpnack – ISWCC, David Callister – UI Extension, Nathan Jones – NRCS, Chris Johnson – Blaine SCD, Brett Gullett – IDFG, Randy Purser – Butte SWCD, Todd Perkes – Butte SWCD, Mark Telford – Butte SWCD, Walt Johnson – Butte SWCD, Stephanie Barnes – Butte SWCD, Frances Perkes – Butte SWCD, Jennifer Weathered – Butte SWCD, Lori Ringel – High Country RC&D, Lara Fondow – NRCS, Mark Olson – NRCS, Berett Erb – NRCS, Brett Ingles – NRCS, Randy Nelson – landowner, Bob Simpson – Blaine SCD, Byron Pehrson – Big Lost River Irrigation District, Loy Pehrson – landowner, Kathy Noble – Blaine SCD

**Minutes:** The June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 local working group meeting was held at the Butte County Business Center in Arco as well as via Zoom.

Brett Ingles, NRCS, and Jesse Fullmer, NRCS, facilitated the meeting. Discussion was made on the two draft proposals discussed in the previous meetings.

1.) Irrigation Water and Efficiency Initiative: Discussion was made on the definition of shrink and if an average of several years should be considered. The inclusion of laterals versus entire systems was discussed. A ranking question reflecting amount of shrink was developed, with more than 70% shrink being ranked as high priority, 50%-69% ranked as medium priority, and less than 50% ranked as low priority. Discussion was made on who will rank the proposals. The total amount of funding requested was set at \$3 million over two years. Discussion was made on including in-field practices for chosen canal systems.

**Tasks:** The NRCS will work with the irrigation districts to identify canals of highest priority.

**Timeline:** The NRCS will ask for proposals from landowners interested in irrigation efficiency projects starting July 5<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>. These proposals should include a map and estimated water savings (this could be a letter from the water master). The proposals will then be reviewed and ranked at the local work group meeting in August by a group of board members from the two Districts.

2. Peaks to Craters Fish and Wildlife Passage Improvement Project: Discussion was held on the pronghorn migration route fence rehabilitation/removal activities that will be taking place on federal land in conjunction with this project. Discussion was made on ranking fish passage projects and fence projects separately.

**Tasks and Timeline:** The NRCS and IDFG will hold public meetings with the private landowners in the pronghorn corridor will be held in Arco and Carey before August 15<sup>th</sup>.

The NRCS will visit with individuals regarding fish passages on an individual basis before August 15<sup>th</sup>.