USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Apply by May 20, 2016

ASPEN RESTORATION

A quality stand of aspen trees can significantly improve the health & vigor of your farm and ranch land. Aspen areas provide essential habitat for elk, mule deer, grouse & many other wildlife. Plus, they offer excellent grass & grazing opportunities for cattle & livestock.

High-functioning aspen habitats are declining in Eastern Oregon–an issue that is quickly emerging as a priority natural resource concern among conservation groups in the region. We must work together to restore and maintain these unique aspen habitats, so they may continue to support a flourishing and diverse ecosystem of plants, birds and wildlife for future generations. That's why the Natural Resources Conservation Service is teaming up with conservation partners and private landowners to help rejuvenate and restore these vital aspen areas.

Funding is now available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help you restore and enhance aspen habitat on your working farm and ranch lands.

Healthy aspen stands provide critical fawning habitat for mule deer.

NRCS offers financial incentives, advice and recommendations to help you install the following conservation practices for aspen restoration on your land:

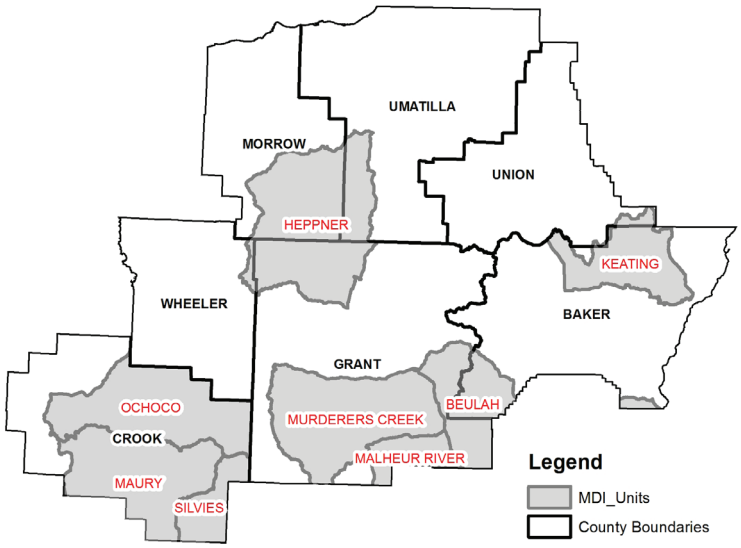
- Fencing
- Conifer (Juniper) Removal
- Upland Habitat Management
- Invasive Weed Control
- Brush Management
- Livestock Watering Systems

Applications due May 20, 2016

Project Area

The Eastern Oregon Aspen Restoration funding is only available to farmers, ranchers and non-industrial private forest landowners in the following Oregon counties:

- Baker
- Crook
- Grant
- Morrow
- Umatilla
- Union
- Wheeler



Priority will be given to lands within designated Mule Deer Initiative (MDI) areas, as designated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (see map to the left showing MDI areas that overlap the targeted counties). NRCS will rank applications based on aspen condition, juniper/conifer encroachment, grazing use, and other criteria.

The funding will focus on rehabilitating degrading aspen stands to improve tree and plant conditions and enhance wildlife habitat, with options to integrate livestock feed, forage and watering facilities. Planting new aspen trees is not included.

Eligibility

To receive financial incentives from NRCS, landowners must meet the basic eligibility criteria for the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program. This is a popular, voluntary Farm Bill program that allows NRCS to reimburse landowners for a portion of the expenses to perform conservation practices. Review EQIP eligibility online at: http://bit.ly/OregonEQIP

Visit us Online at

www.or.nrcs.usda.gov

Contact your local NRCS office today

Baker County:
3900 Midway Lane, Baker City, OR 97814
Misty Bennett, 541-523-7121 x115

Crook County:
625 SE Salmon Ave. Ste 4, Redmond, OR 97756
Chris Mundy, 541-923-4358 x112

Grant County:
721 S Canyon Blvd, John Day, OR 97845
Lorraine Vogt, 541-575-0135 x109

Morrow County:
430 Linden Way, Heppner, OR 97836
Kacee Lathrop, 541-676-5021 x113

Umatilla County:
1 SW Nye Ave, Ste 130, Pendleton, OR 97801
Andrea Mann, 541-278-8049 x105

Union County:
1901 Adams Ave, Ste 6, La Grande, OR 97850
Mike Burton, 541-963-4178

Wheeler County:
333 Main, Dunn Brothers Bldg, Condon, OR 97823
Damon Brosnan, 541-384-2671 x107

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.