

Year 2025

Watershed District John Day (Morrow and Wheeler Counties)

Annual limit on number of plans approved \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum enrolled acreage 40 acres. Additionally, at least 50% of the tax lot acreage needs to be enrolled.

Annual deadline for review of plans \_\_\_\_\_

Specific native habitats of conservation concern of interest for the WHCMP (ie. specific strategy habitats or local habitats of conservation concern)

*Morrow County* - native grasslands, shrub steppe, aspen, wetlands, riparian and flowing water, cottonwood galleries, mature ponderosa stands. Areas with soils suitable for Washington Ground Squirrel burrows (WGS), and areas with intact native vegetation will be prioritized.

*Wheeler County* - aspen, mt. mahogany thickets, bitterbrush stands, springs and seeps, riparian and flowing water, cottonwood galleries, native grasslands, mature ponderosa stands and late successional forest. Areas with springs/seeps, winter forage for mule deer, and riparian habitats will be prioritized.

Degree and Timing of Risk

- Landowner capacity – knowledge, skills, resources
- Partnership with Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation District, or other agency to plan and implement work on-site

Project Landscape Context

- Overlap with ODFW mapped conservation areas- within or adjacent to [Conservation Opportunity Areas](#) , within or adjacent to [Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas](#)
- Proximity to designated species habitat boundaries- (i.e. known Washington Ground Squirrel Populations, long-billed curlew nesting locations, high density winter range for mule deer, or within bighorn sheep herd range)
- Proximity to existing conservation lands, conservation easements, WHCMP properties or public lands in [Protected Areas database](#)
- Documented presence of Conservation Strategy Species or Federally listed species from [Compass](#) report

Best management practices

- If livestock (e.g. cattle, sheep, horses) grazing is planned to occur within the riparian corridor, there must be a grazing management plan in place to control the timing, duration, and intensity of grazing. Plans must avoid and/or minimize negative impacts such as streambank erosion, soil compaction in wet soils, or overutilization of important riparian plants (e.g. sedges and woody plants). No grazing should occur in riparian areas of streams/rivers containing ESA listed species or critical habitats.
- Fire management and invasive species management need to be included in the plan

Criteria Exceptions: Exceptions will be considered by agency staff on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions for acreage requirement for properties with Washington Ground Squirrel burrows, wetlands, or milkweed patches in the Columbia Basin.

Extra Credit – properties with intact native vegetation