



August 11th, 2021

Upper Little Salmon River Field Trip Minutes

TIME 10:00am-2:00pm MST- LOCATION Meet at Zims Hot Springs, 2995 Zims Road, New Meadows, ID 83654

SCHEDULE

10:10 – Travel to Natural Resource Conservation Service Wetland Reserve Program property, Highway 95, 3.8 miles north of Zims

Presentation on NRCS conservation on private land along Little Salmon River

Nick McGuire and Jared Everson with Natural Resource Conservation Service

- Wetland reserve program (WRP)- take modified wetlands and work to restore.
- 2 types of WRP easements - 30 yr term easement and permanent easement
- NRCS pays 75% of restoration costs for 30-year easements and 100% for permanent
- Location mile and a half from river to road boundary
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- Restoration project examples - native plantings, bring cattle in to graze to promote forb growth, build complex grass habitat for a diversity of wildlife.
- NRCS pays for initial fencing with 20-year lifespan
- Land owners still responsible for weeds, fences, normal operations and maintenance after restoration projects have been completed
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- Landowners can't use easement for profit of any kind.
- Fence must go around perimeter of boundary, even if it not always ideal
- Landowner can decide which parts of property go into easement, does not need to offer full property
- 1:1 wetland and upland acres ratio. Can enroll area not in wetland if functionally relevant
- Handouts provided, for more information contact jared.everson@usda.gov.
- Discuss Agricultural Conservation Easements at future meeting
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11:00 – Travel to Circle C Ranch Lot 7, Smokey Boulder Road, 9.1 miles north of Zims



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Presentation on riparian restoration along Round Valley Creek

Mary Boone and Wes Keller

- Willow weaving for restoration
- Brought in 10,000 plants over several decades
- Scooped out trenches to get through the canary grass.
- Alder is very successful here. Would like to continue promoting more diversity
- Riparian corridors used by many animals for thermal refuge by the stream

11:50 – Travel to Zims, Lunch

Presentation on riparian degradation and planting plan along Little Salmon River

Wes Keller

Restoration ideas from breakout groups

- Beaver dam analogs
- Root wads
- Stabilize banks
- Control knapweed
- Raise water table
- Post assisted log structures
- Hawthorn trees already in area around fences
- “Fake fence” to attract birds and subsequently seeds
- Plant appropriate species for area
- Bio rip rap
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- Laying banks back
- Flow can be over 1000 cfs in the spring so at risk of blowout
- Leaning towards bigger plants to get down to water table
- Stream bottom does not have a lot of complexity. Want to create some structure and scours for pooling

Discussed future meeting topic ideas

- Weeds
- Rapid River fish hatchery
- History of the area

LITTLE SALMON RIVER
WATERSHED
COLLABORATIVE

August 11th, 2021

- Visit Idaho County property along river

2:30 – Adjourn

NEXT FIELD TRIP Lower Little Salmon River

September 8th, 2021, 10:00am-2:00pm MST

- Meet at same location: Zims Hot Springs, 2995 Zims Road, New Meadows, ID 83654

Agenda to follow

<https://littlesalmonriverwatershedcollaborative.com>

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