

Minutes_Wasco County NRCS Work Group 2024_February 29th, 2024

NRCS Staff: Emily Huth, Dellaina Morse, Erin Beuttenmuller, Garrett Duyck, Theron Taylor, Becky Hilderbrand

10am-12pm; 420 NE 1st St in Dufur, OR

Start time 10:10

Emily: Introduction for NRCS and what a Local Work Group is

Diagram how we form our funding opportunities going forward, various resource concerns in the county, working with partners to get conservation on the ground and on your properties

Description of the Agenda

Intros from all attendees in the room - a mix of farmers, ranchers, and partners

Emily: Overview map showing what we currently have available lumped into general resource concern categories - these funding opportunities all starting in conversations like ours today

Dellaina: Overview of each funding pool for 2023 and number of applications for 2024

Barlow Area, North Wasco Joint Chiefs, South Wasco Rangeland Enhancement, Fish Screen

Replacement Other programs: Food Security Initiative, Organic, Climate Focused Livestock Production, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Forest Stewardship

Questions regarding programs? None

Questions slide to kick off the discussion was put on the projector screen

10:21

- I didn't see anything about irrigation projects at all, that's something that's going to come up we've got flood ground we'd like to get sprinklers for water conservation

Emily: that is a possibility – we need a group of you, concentrated in a geographic area for a focused effort, I would love to fund this and have had a lot of interest, we need people in the same room. What kind of upgrades do you need? Handline to pivot, etc.? We do have practices for that but no current funding pool.

- And that's through EQIP? Or would we be able to do this through CSP?

Emily: There are enhancement options through CSP if you've already upgraded your equipment ex. IWM, pump evaluations. EQIP payment rates are much better when speaking about sprinkler or pump equipment upgrades

Garrett: Has everyone gotten a chance to add their stickers to the map for resource concerns? This map is valuable to us at NRCS because the way that the funding process works we have to show that there is a collective need. This map helps us to target those kinds of needs... I see 3 red dots for wildfire: who wants to talk about this topic?

- Biggest concern is fuel and trying to do conservation programs, we add fuel to the market and how do we try to keep from having those fuels if something major happens like we had in 2018? How do we

control that? Obviously the environment has a lot to do with it, the wind, after the first day we could've had it controlled but the wind came and there's no keeping up.

- Grass fuels in CRP and field edges are also a concern

- And wheat and chem fallow has fuels, before we were chem fallowers and summer fallowers, there was a natural break, run up against a dirt field...we don't have that anymore so there is fuel from one side of the county to the next

- I would say that our water district out there, we are kind of the same thing Larry said, looking for ways to conserve water, quantity of water is a big deal for us on the south side of White River, there's a shortage.

Garrett: Is it more an application efficiency or conveyance issue?

- Conveyance and application, we've got a lot of sprinklers there, we've got 15 miles of irrigation canal and 50 miles of laterals for 2,107.4 miles. Small drop for that area to try and get that water delivered.

- I want to jump across White River going north and we have 22 miles of ditch that leaks and evaporates and we lose probably half of the water we put into our main ditch and it never makes it to the sprinkler, for a couple billion dollars we could pipe some irrigation ditches and come up with another Colorado river easily. An average across all those types of ditches you lose about half your water before it reaches sprinklers. We are concerned about the north side of White River as well.

Garrett: The river is not the dividing boundary – this whole area is impacted.

- The blue dot far to the left, Clear Lake, that's where our water starts to get all the way to Juniper Flat and I wanted to mark it respective wise. It's connected.

Garrett: Come up and add to this map to get a visualization on this landscape of ours where the problem is current.

- Is that in a ditch Tim, all the way to Clear Lake?

-Yes it runs in Clear Creek drainage and runs all the way up.

Dellaina: Emphasize the map around the community for funding guidance for funding pools

- Just a thought, we've been searching for major increase in irrigation efficiency, are there options to try and leverage dollars or get bigger projects done by partnering with Gilliam or Wheeler NRCS, along the John Day it's the same, one side of the river has more funding than the other side. Is there potential to work across boundaries?

Garrett: Yes and no, that would be a conversation to have at the end of this meeting to get into some details.

- As far as private land ownership and BLM you know how checkerboarded it is but there should be someone here from BLM representing their interests but that's a big miss, and I say that as a public landowner, they really need to get on board, that's my 2 cents. Call BLM and say "hey get involved", these are our local communities and we want to see you on the ground getting involved.

- On the water quantity issue the USFS should be involved, we are part of Wolf Run ditch and the ditch starts on their land. They've piped ditches in the past.

Becky: I've been very strongly pushing the option to do a fire break in Sherman County, come to Emily and say hey, vegetative or bare ground it's a 5-year life program its paid enough for you to do it, cropland or non-crop land. We have a massive fire issue, both of our counties, depending on how the wind goes. Currently pushing the breaks, for us John Day has very public use access that is a struggle same as Deschutes Park, stop it from getting up on top, away from farmland, before it gets away from us. Talking fire concern on the brinks, doesn't have to be just that but its my first idea to hit Emily with.

- Are you talking about paying for them to go in and bottom plow on the edge of their farmland?

Becky: No some of that we are still working through, if it's HEL we don't want to disc it. Might leave a little veg and then spray it out, you keep an erosion issue from happening. There are things to work through on that, a lot of our ground is erodible, how do we balance our resource concerns to stop the fire and limit erosion. As a farmer it gives us a spot if people know where that fire break is, it will stop and you don't have to make 5 passes, you at least know you get those spots and get a disc and can use them as back burns. Sherman rule of fire, instead of guys babysitting the line you could get guys going to other places because you have a 30 ft break. But any other time other than that wind it would be substantial. Something that is my main push in Sherman, my standpoint from my guys is they've all fought fire over there longer than I've been alive, they know how that fire runs, you guys are the same here. Know which draws have fire issues, how wind is going to take it, go to Emily with those, you know the ground, use your knowledge for power.

- What does your funding look like for putting these in?

Becky: As a dollar amount its all through EQIP programs currently, now it changes for non-beginning rancher paid by linear foot 30 ft bare ground in intervals, 20 foot vegetative, it's around a six-dollar payment. One payment for the 3-year contract. 6 dollars a foot. You have to do 30 foot wide. I had an estimate floating around, we can dig into acres how that payout breaks down to acres. We can discuss that. My estimate on a 3200-foot fire line 32 feet wide, 20K payment one year, you have to maintain it for five years. It's permanent, not temporary. You guys can do the calculation on that. Round here worse case scenario you'd lose 3 crops.

- How much would you lose in 3 crops verse a payment on that?

Emily: If I may circle back, Sherman and Wasco have a very unique relationship between the county offices, we have to have an interest in Wasco County too so we can delineate on our side of the fence. We can make cross-county funding work, we just need to justify it.

- On Juniper Flat that's exactly what we are talking about, we've had some fires there, near misses even though they were devastating and large, whole idea of chem fallow and some kind of fire break is good but I would add the CRP ground I know it gets dicey there but maybe it's possible to do a border of CRP with one of these plantings because after mid-June early July on Juniper Flat it's dry. First cutting alfalfa would've been shot by first of July, may not burn the stash but it's still gonna burn.

Garrett: I'll let FSA speak to what's allowed in CRP, what could be possible is take a sliver off CRP and enroll in EQIP and we could help pay for a fire break as long as it's not also in CRP. IS that doable Martha?

Martha: Yes it's true you can remove a portion from CRP if you want to but there would be a penalty and refund to FSA plus interest ... firebreak is allowable in CRP as long as its in the conservation plan, that is an option and I don't know the specs off my head for firebreak but I know there are some contracts that specially requested to have that in it where the CRP goes right up to a house.

- It would be possible to make a mid-contract amendment?

I think so, I don't think there is cost share, but it could be allowed.

Garrett: You might not get reimbursed, sounds like there are a few options. Consult with FSA and NRCS planners.

- Wamic's biggest concern is CRP or CREP that is in the creek - at my place we have 188 acres enrolled and if lightning strikes, there again, trying to do something in those to be fire break linearly across so you can get in there and try to stop it, fire load as you saw in 2017-2019 its all grass, no dirt break at all. Catastrophic. You could start a fire in Mt. Hood Forest and it would go to Gilliam because there is no break, there's nothing. We need to look at broad landscaping. Where there's been no cattle grazing or cropping, the undergrowth in mine is super substantial so try and get in there to put a fire out is super expensive. Structure protection, state forestry, retardant, its hard to stop a fire once it gets going.

- I second that.

Garrett: We can focus resources toward that landscape strategy to do what we can in the confines of what we are allowed to do. So far 2 issues have risen – irrigation and water use efficiency through much of the county, mostly central and south, and second is wildfire everywhere. Does anyone want to argue something else that is more important than those 2? The result of this meeting will be the staff focusing on one or 2 new ideas to pursue, so is there a different issue that is more pressing?

- What I've been concerned about is protecting the work we've already done.

- Here here!

- No-till is starting to have some issues we need to deal with, finding solutions to that could solve these resource concerns we are talking about. It's so widely adopted, find solutions to invasive species, herbicide resistance, wildfire, soil health that have sprung up because of no till, rather than just focusing on something entirely new.

Garrett: What solutions do you think would move the needle?

- I don't have any answers yet, there's major concerns because of 20 years of no till that we have to deal with soon. Weeds we can't kill, skeleton weed, etc. etc. Not to say that's more important than wildfire but so much has been poured into that.

Garrett: I have given feedback to decision makers for NRCS about what can be funded about this issue related to soil pH and herbicide resistant weeds, trying to get new activities approved, I wish I could say I've made great progress in that regard but I will continue to pursue that in addition to anything else locally. I'm fully aware of that issue.

Garrett: You guys have a lot of power to help us, talking to Oregon Wheat, have your feet on the ground, we can only do so much here. You want some changes, have some ideas, start pressing other places because we can only do so much with what we have.

Emily: You guys are the experts. At NRCS we have to know a little about a lot of things so you have the power to bring these issues to our attention. We look to you to know what issues you're experiencing on your operations.

- I think we are at risk of losing a lot of our gains if we can't deal with these issues outside of the tillage world. One thing is losing our chemistries, its gonna put us back into tillage. You've all watched me struggle to come up with something other than the wheat fallow, there's an answer there but we need to find it, it will solve some of these problems, to get more diversity on the landscape.

Garrett: I hear you, I think we've been thinking about this for some time. The challenge for us is to get funding to bring to the table, we have to demonstrate that there is action ready to be taken. So what does that look like? We know the solution for irrigation, for wildfire breaks, we have the tools and practices at our disposal to implement. Before we can get funding we need to flesh out what does that plan look like, is it crop rotation, herbicide rotation? What does it look like?

- David did you say we are losing our chemistry?

-Yes, I think we are at risk of it. Now we are fixing to start using herbicide, if we use it the same way it won't work again in ten years.

- I think we've all seen what happened with Round Up I'm just gonna say it, early 80s we started doing that we could do one application on in mid late spring and it killed everything, stayed that way until we got a late summer or any summer rain into fall, there were years we only had to do one application. Now, I know guys who have to go 4-5 times during summer to get that, my concern has been where are we going. Chemistry pH problem? Is it because of the chemistry? I've got serious concerns about where we are headed with that.

- Is it more about the herbicide resistance? Or are these the same issue or separate?

- I like the term, the chemistry, that involves the pH. It's soil health and pest/herbicide resistance, I want to get it on the map with a sticker dot.

Becky: What is your thought, things you have researched, if you had unlimited funds how would you try to fix that on your place?

- We don't have that, main solution would be tillage.

- If money wasn't an issue what then...

- A lot of canola if there was a market for that locally, that would make life easier. You have to haul it to Moses Lake, I don't know if that is in the NRCS wheel house.

Garrett: What would it be worth to you for us to pay you to grow it and ship it?

- It would be equivalent of what a good wheat crop would be.

- We can't deliver that exactly but we can start having the discussion

- Seed availability? It's about finding the dollar amount-

I know funding is the major stop, what would be ideal world?

- It might take the right equipment, putting wheat in the ground isn't rocket science.

- How do we make this work for you –

- It's an acres issue. If there were acres lower on the Columbia to justify it, from my experience canola will compete with wheat all day long but it's the freight problem. That math is easy to account for freight difference, the crop will stand on its own.

Garrett: NRCS can come in with the incentive payment. Maybe the infrastructure will follow some day..

- I've tried doing some canola with that but it was the freight that was the big kicker.

Garrett: If this is a high enough priority we can do the pushing to get our own new payment, which is hard to do, but we can push the issue and say no we need this, here is why, and this is the problem and what we need to pay. If we push hard enough. I do want us to keep our minds open, can't make any promises but they will listen.

Emily: Jason (Flowers, OWL/NRCS) are you hearing similarly across the Columbia Basin?

Jason: Yes from other local meetings. Yes, they discussed getting funding to make upgrades to their spray equipment, not latest greatest but being able to make upgrades to get to spot spray tech like Weed-It. Losing chems and stuff, that's the tech that's gonna help save your chems. Reduce use of Round Up, Larry Lucher(sp?) from OSU and I are working with their office to get a CIS in place to allow sprayer upgrades. NRCS has to word it differently, but Larry and I are doing the groundwork on the farmer's side. Deadline is real tight, by April, my hope is if we can get that to work well there then that will be a template that I can roll over into other counties.

-You can see the concern when you drive north to Spokane, you can see it all along the highway.

Garrett: Jason lets chat after

- pH is another issue, we are trying some peas this year, anything we can do to raise a crop with less fertilizer in the ground...

Garrett: It has been noted by NRCS leadership, there are several things in the works to address that, we haven't had a mechanism to address that, I would say for now stay tuned and there may be new developments to change things. If that's a good enough answer for now.

- Are you going to hit it from a soil health aspect?

Garrett: I don't know exactly, that's not how I would approach it. To me its an erosion issue, if you can't ameliorate, you're gonna till it. That's not how leadership sees it.

- With the leadership issue is it because they don't understand what farming techniques we do, versus back east?

Garrett: No it's bureaucracy, you can imagine. And probably a lack of understanding as well. They aren't clueless, there's just a lot going on.

Garrett: What I've noticed is the state office is good, disconnect between west coast and east coast, all about water quality on east coast, it's a whole different environment east side of states doesn't fully grasp.

Becky: We are such a small pocket, we are 1 percent of the ag, so we've got to be vocal because what happens in the Midwest is totally different. We are special.

Garrett: A couple months ago we had a chance to bring those people to Wasco County and we toured a few of you in the room and it was helpful for them to see that and get perspective. I appreciate we were able to do that hopefully we can get some traction. (Ref West Region Agronomist Tour)

- I think invasive annual grasses in rangelands is something we've been working to address, it's perplexing how to make progress without herbicide and continued fire, outside historical context, it is a difficult challenge.

Dellaina: That was my entire summer. I'm getting mixed reactions on herbicide spraying, with those apps, estimates are so high because of huge variety, intensive Rx Grazing, aerial herbicide. Stay tuned to see diff tactics with this funding opportunity.

- I'm organic so I'll put that out there, certified organic USDA. One problem I see, I'd like to see guys get away from chems, you're hooked in the chem cycle and you can't get away from that. I have to plow, harrow, rotate my crops every 5 years, the incentive to come off the chem and get back to our grandfather's, you are hooked into programs that have teeth that won't let you. Even if you wanted to go organic to come off no till programs, maybe for an incentive, is to waive some of those penalties to get guys to come back into organic with proper rotation. I don't have to worry about runoff, maybe some education on getting people out of the commercial and more into the organic.

- What are the penalties you have in mind?

- When I talk to guys they say "I've taken 20 years of payments on x" so to come out of that to make dirt would be a problem.

Becky: I think there is miscommunication, Emily correct me, you can till Emily through CSP?

Emily: There are options available – case by case, you need to communicate those things to NRCS. If there is a weed issue or another reason we can justify tillage, just not as an annual practice. If the ground is HEL and is compliance checked, this could result in a variance - we just need to talk through this case by case.

- Quick question pH – is it because of the lack of tillage or is it the addition of chem? Are we going more acid?

- That's what our problem is, lots of years of nitrogen addition. And we aren't mixing it either.

- Its getting into a very narrow band.

- The N fertilizer is the source of acidification.

Garrett: Tilling was distributing the acid through soil, now you have a concentration of acid at location of fertilizer application.

Garrett: It's the same amount but now its concentrated.

- Our issue on that is supply yeah if we could spread lime everywhere, but our trucking our availability-

Jason Flowers: At the union baker meeting rep from sugar company was there, they have a huge pile of byproduct they need to get rid of, its very alkaline, they will load it for 4 dollars a ton, good results but problem is freight from Ontario to here. Can NRCS help with freight?

Garrett: Pending some things, we've never had a mechanism to pay for soil amendment like that but there are things in the works.

- Sugar beet from what I've heard, it doesn't have the same effect as Agline does depending...

Becky: I've seen a lot of studies saying it works just as good, you might want to do your own research. Id like to get someone from OSU to do a small plot.

- Can this be an enhancement? We get trapped in these monoculture production systems. Is there a way to incentivize people to get outside of this system. I would love to bring a lot of livestock to some new acreage, self-fertilizing animals onto that crop, short medium 3-5 year duration, looking at what our soil biodiversity microbiome is looking like because I think it is shot.

Garrett: There are existing incentives for this.

Garrett: Question for everyone – has everyone had a chance to speak up? Question is out of all the issues we discussed, which one is the most urgent? If we didn't address it immediately, we would suffer irreparable harm.

- What it does is ends up being self-serving. I could stand up and say irrigation but I'll be honest I think soil health including chemistry overall. I'm here to tell you I'm very concerned that all of that is going to bite us and do with water quality, health of soil, all of that is going to add in. You might be saying there is a zone of acidity, but I think it's worse than that. I swore I'd never say this but if Monsanto is paying for lawsuits, we better wake up. There is something going on that's bigger and my concern is that we are damaging the very thing, soil health, by all the chem we are putting on it. David correct if I'm wrong, when you plant canola that tap root starts going down it will go as far as it can for moisture it should be able to break thru any plow plan, an acid pH level, I think some of these crop rotations will be huge but I'm not sure that's answering the chem – it would help but I think we are dumping on tons of chems that started in the 80s and its increased.

- I'm not so worried about the amount, it's that we are overusing certain ones, I want to make sure we are rotating.

Garrett: Are you aware of any herbicide that could be added but are too cost prohibitive?

- Yeah there's plenty in the fallow period that would solve some of the weed problem and is safe for our neighbors, there are options but they make the fallow treatment really expensive. In my neighborhood when the grapes came in we said we just have to use Round Up, if we are gonna do chem fallow.

Garrett: Where cost is the barrier to mode of action, there is the potential incentive for NRCS so I would like to know details later.

Dellaina: Is soil pH the direction?

- I think wildfire is the next one, need some dirt on the ground or natural fire breaks to give a fighting chance on the 30-mph wind.

- Do you struggle with water availability in firefighting?

-Yes. Electricity, you lose power, other than a pumper getting out to all those draws, you struggle with water availability in fire situation.

-I Think in the past we have but I think because of the 2018 fire as things have changed we see more and more tankers available strategically.

- Water cisterns or solar pumps, for really crappy canyons, if you have a water source. Just asking, again we don't have water there.

- In some of ours we go 2 hours to fill up and back.

- Having that storage for fire, we have payments for above or below ground tanks, bottomless, even. First reason needs to be for livestock water, but you can use it as storage for fire suppression.

- What's the larger funding pool?

- It would be under our South Wasco rangeland one right now.

- Would my area be outside of that if we are in the Sustainable Livestock funding?

-Your property is not included in our current Range CIS, but you can get the same projects through that Sustainable Livestock funding

- Is anybody trying prescribe burn? No...? Does that freak everyone out? I'm curious, in a forest environment right now it seems to work, lowers temp, changes outcome of native grasses, curious if y'all thought about it.

Emily: It is a practice NRCS helps with, burn plan, we wouldn't be lighting the fire for you so that's the landowner or their contractor but it's out there, interested folks with forest land but not much from grassland managers

- One thing that's been emerging is forming the Prescribed Burn Association, shared labor to implement burns, there's also programs that provide some level of protection through a certified burn, it's not a hard cert to earn as a landowner and it changes the negligence standard and how much you are liable for so that's just a tool that could be in the toolbox for landowners.

- I would be interested. We are mostly rangeland, as far as rx on rangeland I've only seen it degrade because of the annual grasses.

- Have you seen multiple burns?

- It only gets worse, if you have a really good core perennial stand then you may see benefits

- Does anybody want to make the case that irrigation is most urgent?

-Yes. With climate change I think Wasco is the only drought county in Oregon, last I heard, our snowpack is dismal in comparison to rest of Cascades. I think that is going to continue and get worse. From a water management standpoint, it has been decreasing and it's probably gonna continue to decrease so to your question, which one of these is catastrophic, all of these are important but when our reservoir is gonna go dry mid-June that is catastrophic for folks in our irrigation district. The one thing you can do to enhance fighting against that is stop all the leaks. That takes a huge amount of money, 27 dollars a foot. When you're talking about fifty miles that's a lot.

- That goes with wildfire, if you look where our ditch comes out of, its all coming out of USFS so you get fire up there it will take downside of that erosion, trees, wilderness area, to get pipes, fire can go through there but it wont effect as much as downstream users.

Garrett: I want to make something clear as we are listening, we are assessing a lot of things, taking in this input, what can we address now and what are urgent, what are all the options of things available to address these problems. When we show you that map we are talking about specifically the EQIP funding that is used by Wasco county so where we decided to go with that funding will depend on results of this meeting but there are lots of other ways to address many of these concerns. For example fire breaks, looks like with CRP there are options to pursue immediately. With irrigation related, may fall under IRA funding pool that exists, it may. CSP could possibly pick up a couple things related to wildfire or maybe even crop rotation, there are many different programs and your staff can help you to find the right combo of things. We aren't going to ignore everything else and pick one. We will try to put together the best combo of funding sources, the EQIP money is kind of the catch all for whatever doesn't fit. Making that clear we aren't ignoring anything specifically, we can pursue multiple things.

- Let's wind down for break, this meeting goes to noon, please take a few minutes to use the restroom, grab food, meet some folks

- I do want to say I'm looking at this and we have a geographical area where things are happening, soil part is widespread but I did go up and put a lot of blue dots to get the attention to get your attention but it always seems like on the south side of White River we are kind of left out, and I don't know, we have a need and it's a problem but how do we address that so its more of a identified geographical area. The White River watershed. Otherwise, I could stand here and shout loud for water, I know they got the issues across the river from us as well. I want to throw that out there.

Garrett: A lot of people feel left out, its impossible to cover a majority of the area, we will pursue any and all opportunities including those offered by other agencies like SWCD. Best thing to do is to communicate and remind, gently.

Dellaina: My entire job over the summer is to come to your property and talk about inventories but that's why I exist, to talk about resource inventories and when Garrett's talking about wanting to hear issues but talking about new projects, email me, call me, text me.

- I'm gonna be a squeaky wheel, if we had opportunities on Juniper Flat there are multiple places for on-farm storage, attest to the distribution of irrigation water further beyond the ditch but for fire suppression later on, for grazing capacity and benefits for both cows and the wildlife, there's a lot of benefits for on-farm storage. That needs to be in that water quality and quantity section.

Break 11:30

11:44

Emily: Let's take a few minutes to hear from partners in the room. If you'd like to stand up and introduce yourself, what you've been working on, any resources you have for private landowners

Introduction from Martha with FSA - CRP, CREP, ERP, acreage reporting deadlines, ARC PLC

Introduction from Justin with ODF - hazard tree programs, fuels reductions assistance with EQIP

Lindsay Cornelius (ECOP) - what they've been working on in an oak setting, future plans

Andrew Meyer (ODFW) - new funding in Lower Deschutes for annual grass treatments and shrub plantings. Partnering with BLM and SWCD and maybe NRCS CIS

**Wasco County
Local Work Group Meeting
Participant Exit Survey**

Rank the following resource concerns from highest (#1) to lowest (#10) priority for conservation efforts in Wasco County:

Ranking	Concern	Ranking	Concern
	Soil erosion	5	Wildlife habitat
2	Soil health		Livestock conditions
3	Water quantity		Air quality
	Water quality		Energy Efficiency
1	Plant degradation <i>invasive species</i>	4	Other? <u>fire readiness</u>

Based on the meeting discussion, what do you think the top priority issue(s) is/are that NRCS/SWCD should focus on in the immediate future?

Fire/soil health + invasive species

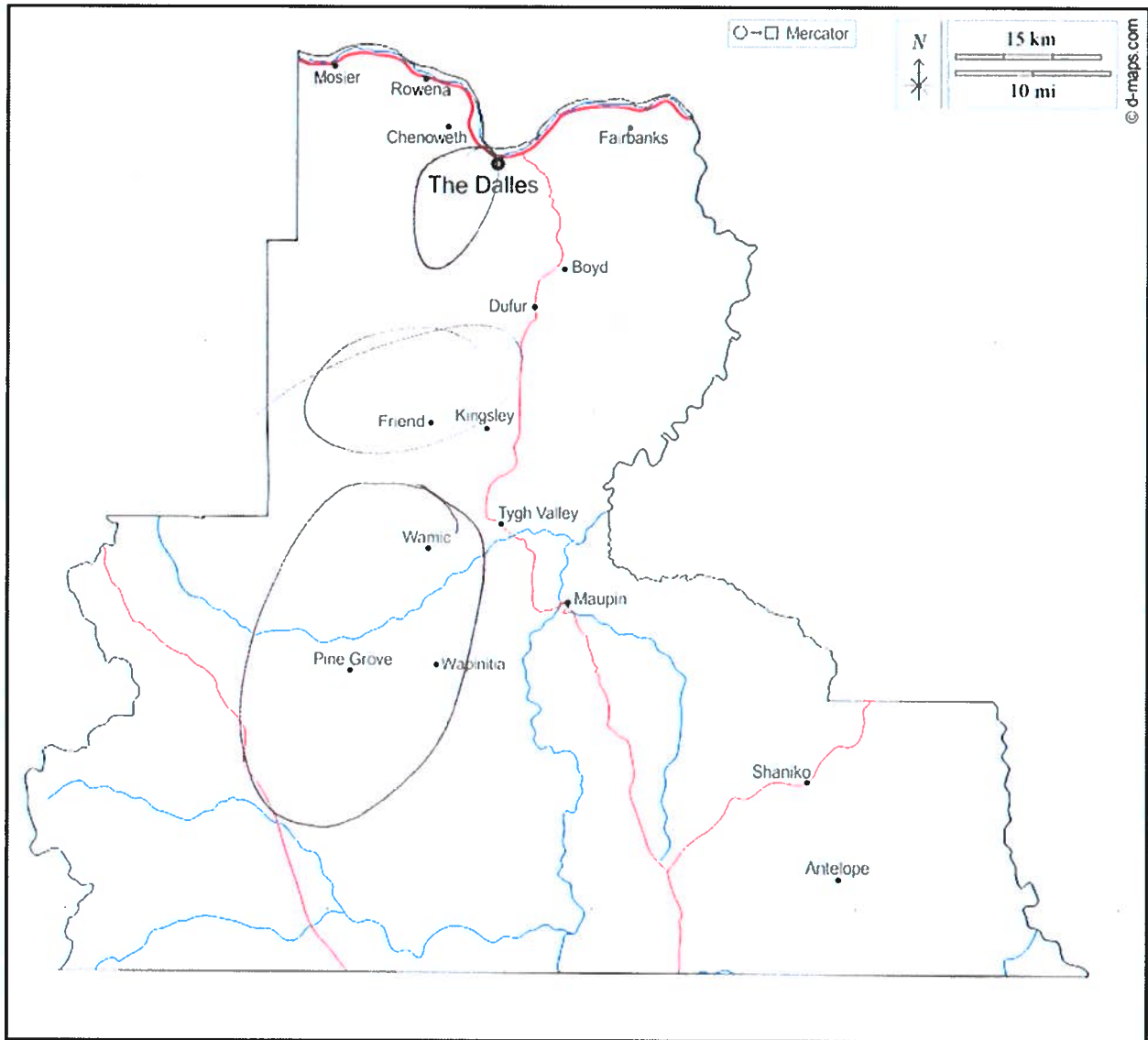
Which land use (crop, range, irrigated pasture, forest) is your main concern?

range/forest

Any tips or feedback to consider for future meetings?

Continue to the back...

Please circle the geographic area in Wasco County that best represents your area of concern and where you would like to see funding go to address these concerns.



Thank you for participating!

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4	Soil erosion	8	Wildlife habitat
2	Soil health	9	Livestock conditions
8	Water quantity	5	Air quality
3	Water quality	6	Energy Efficiency
10	Plant degradation	1	Other? <u>Wild Fire</u>

Based on the meeting discussion, what do you think the top priority issue(s) is/are that NRCS/SWCD should focus on in the immediate future?

Fire, Soil health, irrigation upgrades

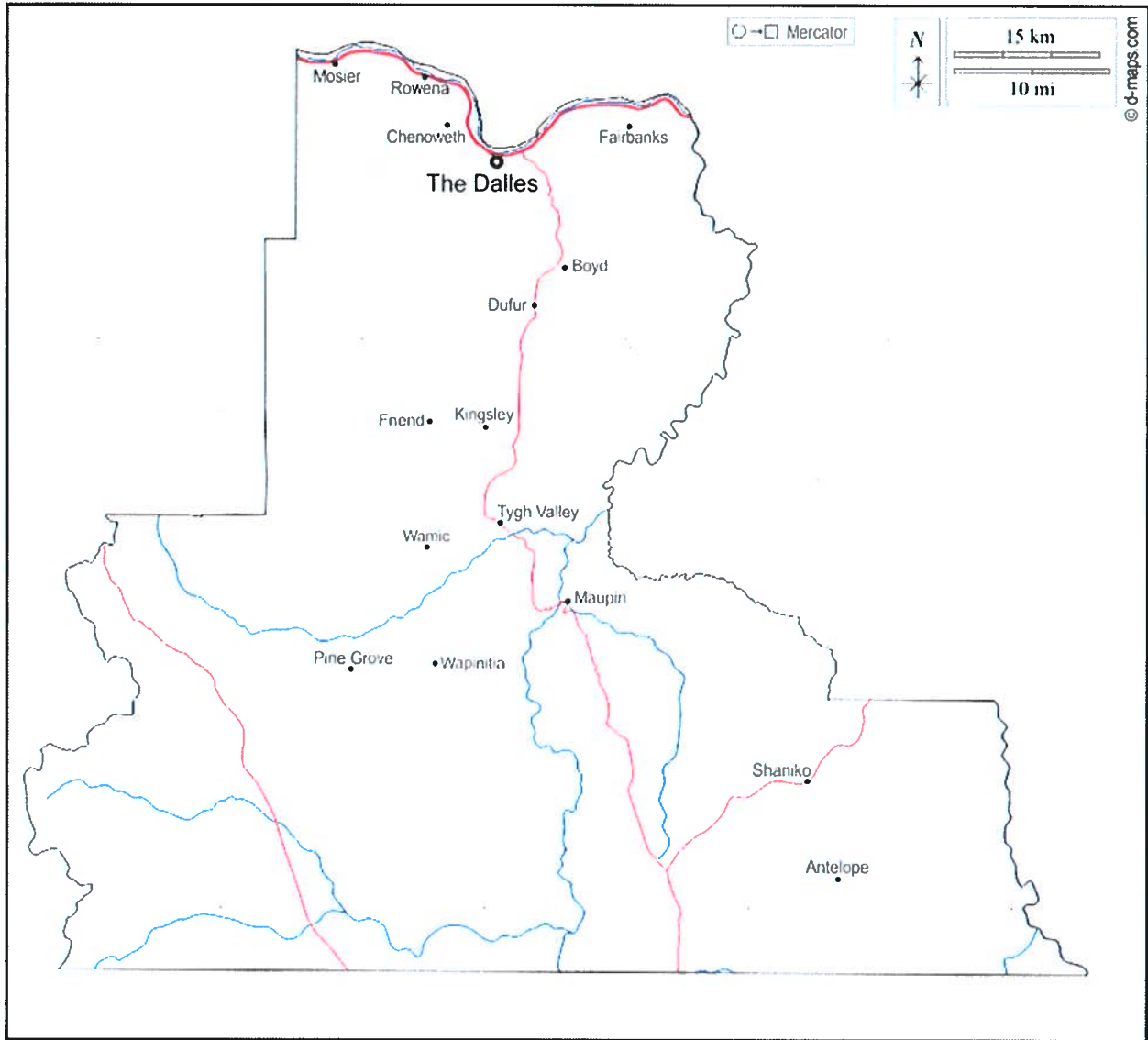
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Fire / Crop Health

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1	Plant degradation		Other? _____

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invasive species

Which land use (crop, range, irrigated pasture, forest) is your main concern?

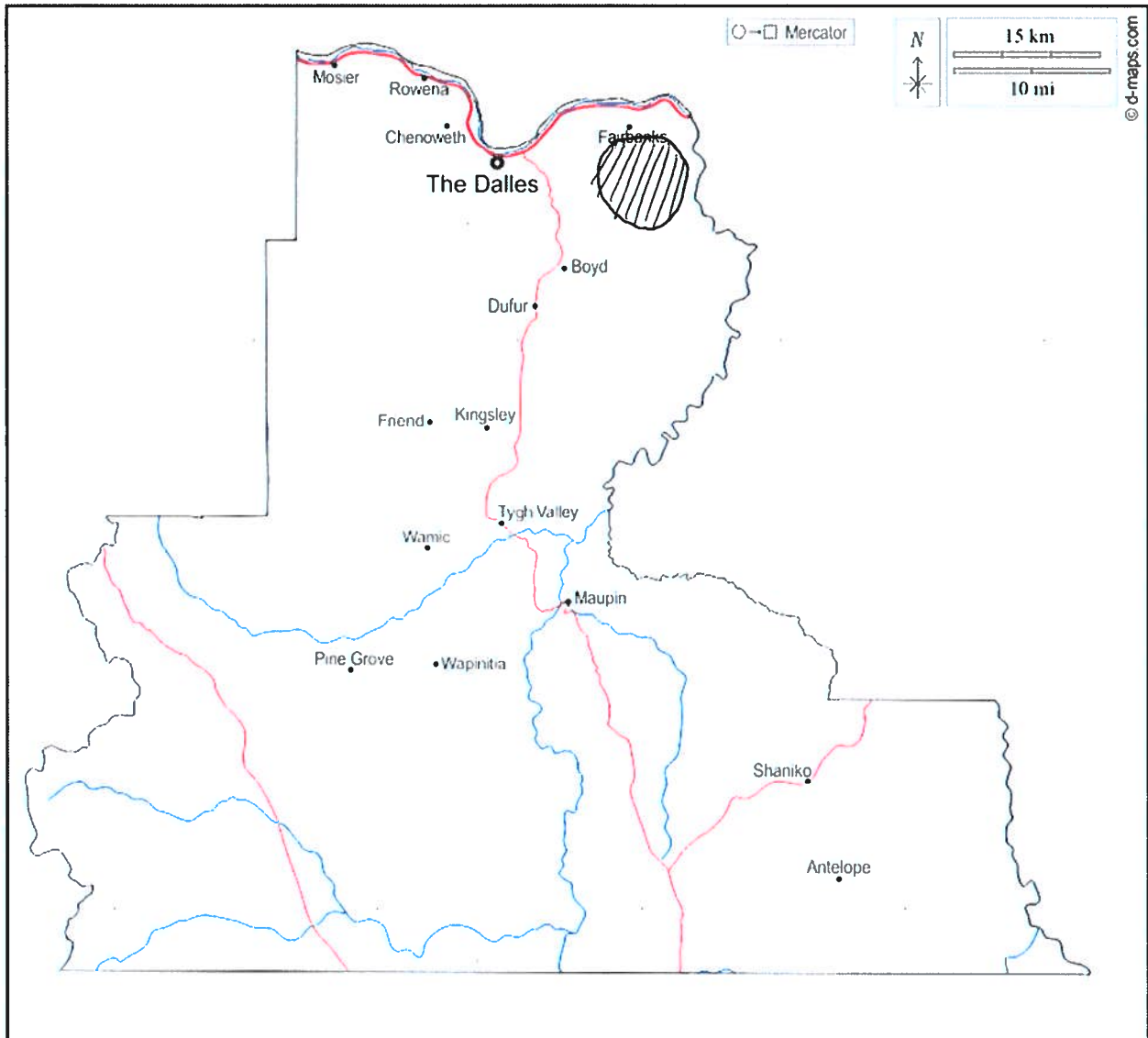
crop

Any tips or feedback to consider for future meetings?

nice job, good varied discussion

Continue to the back...

Please circle the geographic area in Wasco County that best represents your area of concern and where you would like to see funding go to address these concerns.



Thank you for participating!

**Wasco County
Local Work Group Meeting
Participant Exit Survey**

Rank the following resource concerns from highest (#1) to lowest (#10) priority for conservation efforts in Wasco County:

Ranking	Concern	Ranking	Concern
7	Soil erosion		Wildlife habitat
3	Soil health	4	Livestock conditions
1	Water quantity		Air quality
2	Water quality		Energy Efficiency
	Plant degradation		Other? _____

Based on the meeting discussion, what do you think the top priority issue(s) is/are that NRCS/SWCD should focus on in the immediate future?

water quantity, quality - irrigation - on farm storage
efficiency in conveyance systems

Which land use (crop, range, irrigated pasture, forest) is your main concern?

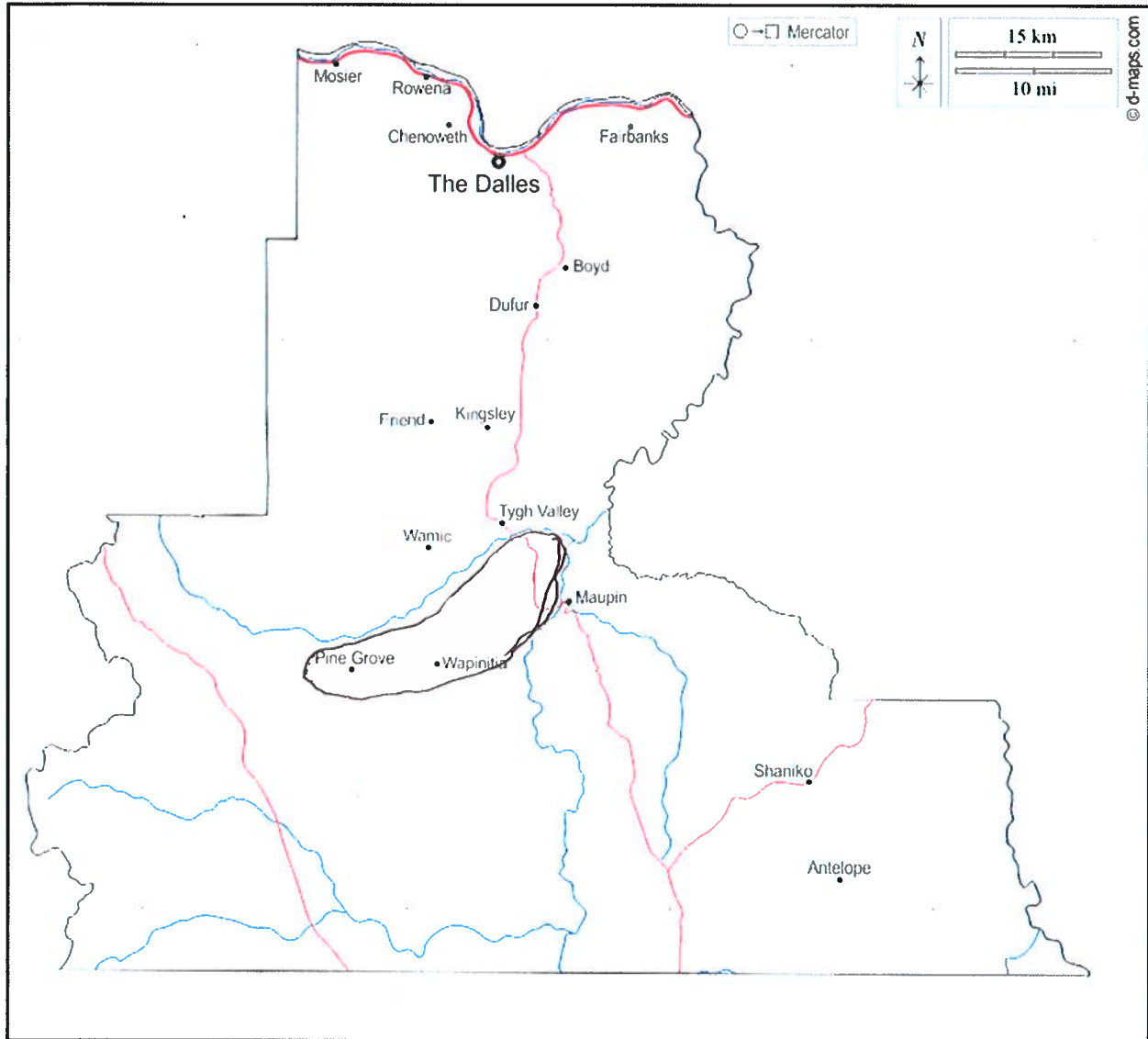
irrigated; crop pasture

Any tips or feedback to consider for future meetings?

This is excellent - best one yet -
Thanks for doing it in Dufur -

Continue to the back...

Please circle the geographic area in Wasco County that best represents your area of concern and where you would like to see funding go to address these concerns.



Thank you for participating!

**Wasco County
Local Work Group Meeting
Participant Exit Survey**

Rank the following resource concerns from highest (#1) to lowest (#10) priority for conservation efforts in Wasco County:

Ranking	Concern	Ranking	Concern
5	Soil erosion		Wildlife habitat
3	Soil health	2	Livestock conditions
1	Water quantity		Air quality
	Water quality		Energy Efficiency
4	Plant degradation		Other? _____

Based on the meeting discussion, what do you think the top priority issue(s) is/are that NRCS/SWCD should focus on in the immediate future?

Irrigation efficient improvements along the John Day River

Which land use (crop, range, irrigated pasture, forest) is your main concern?

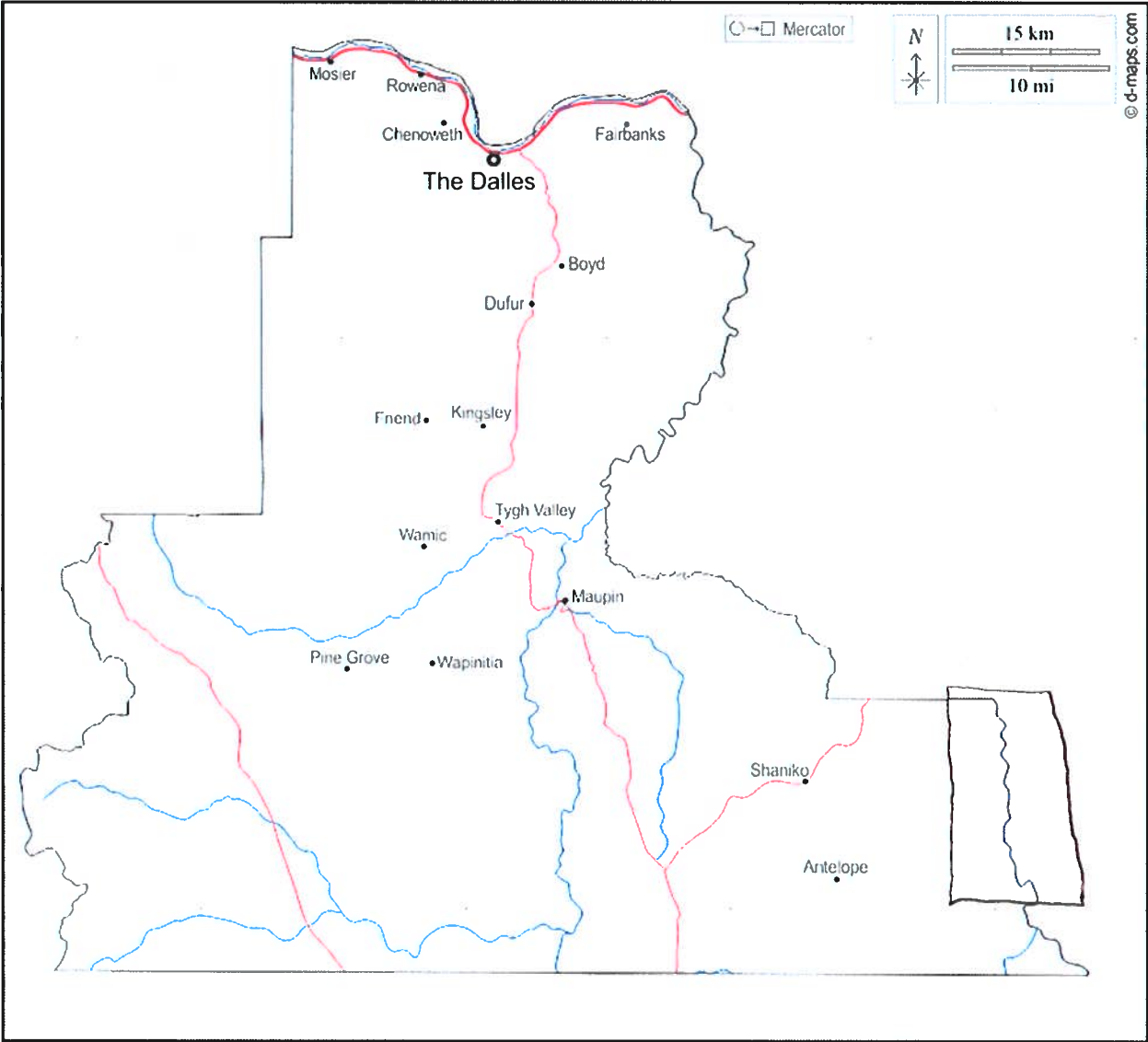
Range land

Any tips or feedback to consider for future meetings?

Appreciate the more central location in Astoria.

Continue to the back...

Please circle the geographic area in Wasco County that best represents your area of concern and where you would like to see funding go to address these concerns.



Thank you for participating!

**Wasco County
Local Work Group Meeting
Participant Exit Survey**

Rank the following resource concerns from highest (#1) to lowest (#10) priority for conservation efforts in Wasco County:

Ranking	Concern	Ranking	Concern
5	Soil erosion	3	Wildlife habitat
4	Soil health	6	Livestock conditions
1	Water quantity	8	Air quality
2	Water quality	7	Energy Efficiency
9	Plant degradation		Other? _____

Based on the meeting discussion, what do you think the top priority issue(s) is/are that NRCS/SWCD should focus on in the immediate future?

WATER QUANTITY

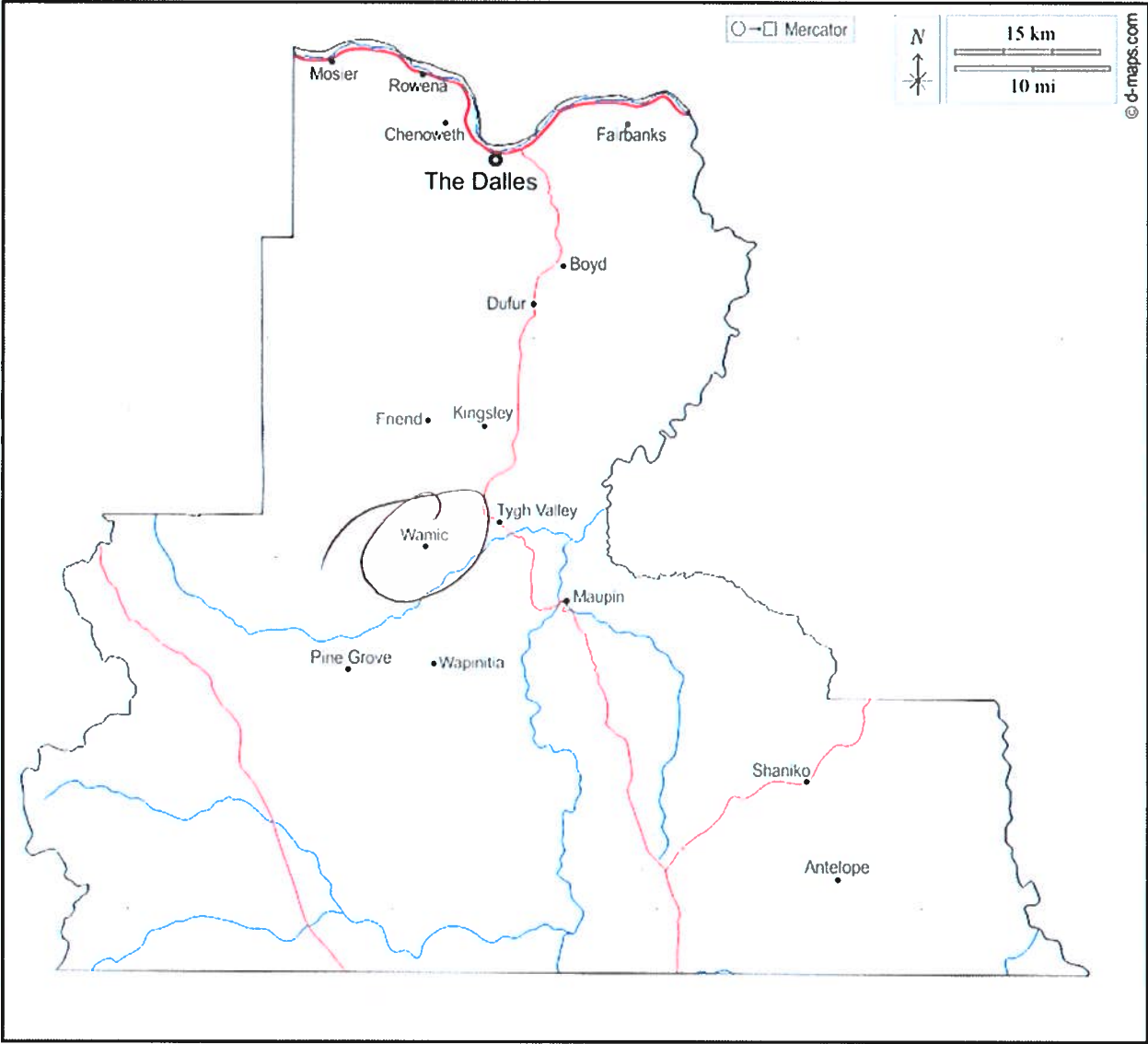
Which land use (crop, range, irrigated pasture, forest) is your main concern?

IRRIGATED PASTURE, FOREST

Any tips or feedback to consider for future meetings?

Continue to the back...

Please circle the geographic area in Wasco County that best represents your area of concern and where you would like to see funding go to address these concerns.



Thank you for participating!

**Wasco County
Local Work Group Meeting
Participant Exit Survey**

Rank the following resource concerns from highest (#1) to lowest (#10) priority for conservation efforts in Wasco County:

Ranking	Concern	Ranking	Concern
5	Soil erosion	7	Wildlife habitat
1	Soil health	5	Livestock conditions
1	Water quantity	3	Air quality
2	Water quality	1	Energy Efficiency
7	Plant degradation	1	Other? <u>Fire</u>

Based on the meeting discussion, what do you think the top priority issue(s) is/are that NRCS/SWCD should focus on in the immediate future?

Drought and water are top priority

Fire - Continue to work towards a more resilient fire landscape.

Which land use (crop, range, irrigated pasture, forest) is your main concern?

Irrigated, Dry land Crop, Range/Pasture

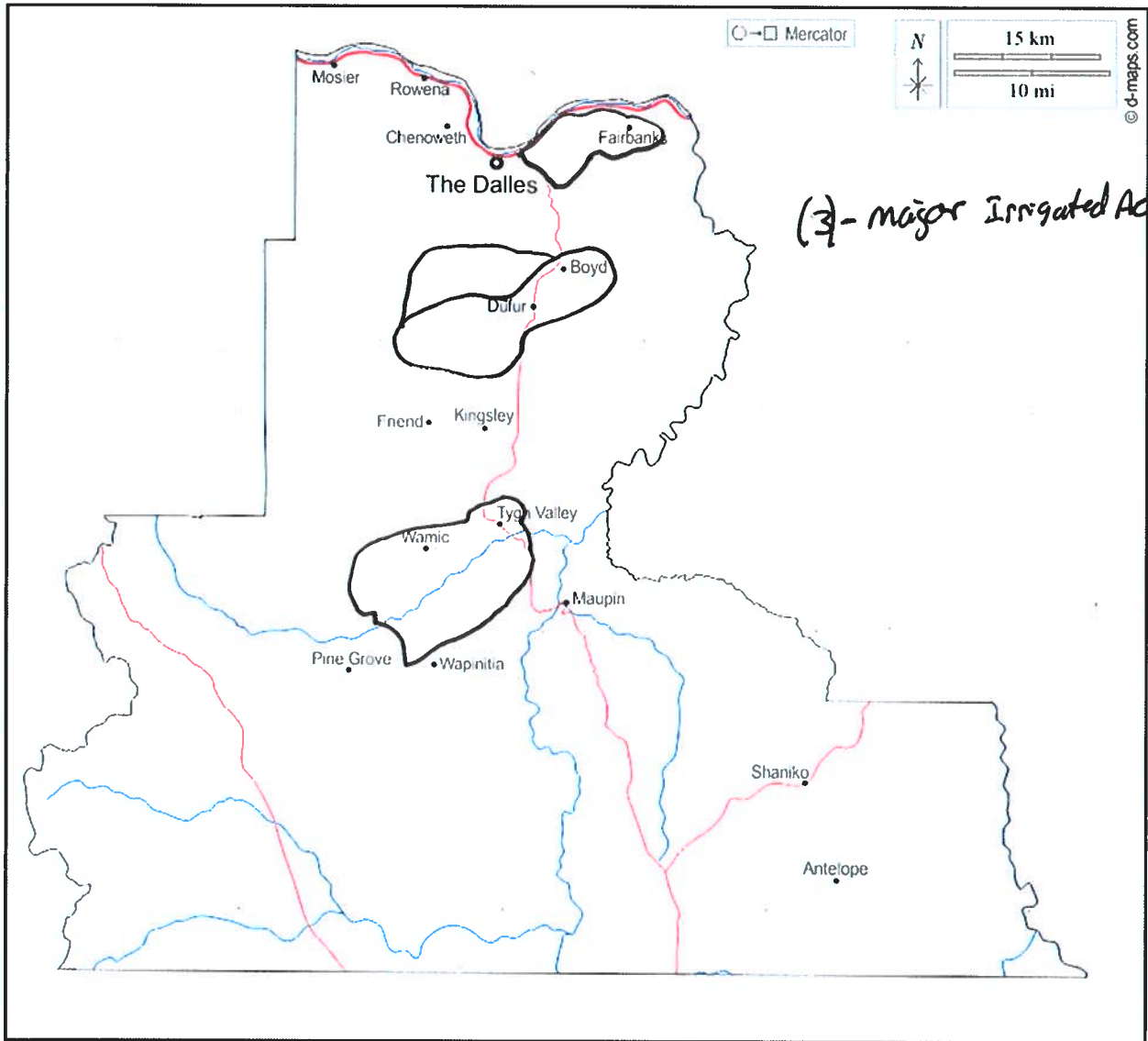
Any tips or feedback to consider for future meetings?

at times was hard to hear

Great Job. Appreciate the conversation

Continue to the back...

Please circle the geographic area in Wasco County that best represents your area of concern and where you would like to see funding go to address these concerns.



Thank you for participating!

**Wasco County
Local Work Group Meeting
Participant Exit Survey**

Rank the following resource concerns from highest (#1) to lowest (#10) priority for conservation efforts in Wasco County:

Ranking	Concern	Ranking	Concern
	Soil erosion	4	Wildlife habitat
1	Soil health		Livestock conditions
	Water quantity		Air quality
2	Water quality		Energy Efficiency
3	Plant degradation		Other? _____

Based on the meeting discussion, what do you think the top priority issue(s) is/are that NRCS/SWCD should focus on in the immediate future?

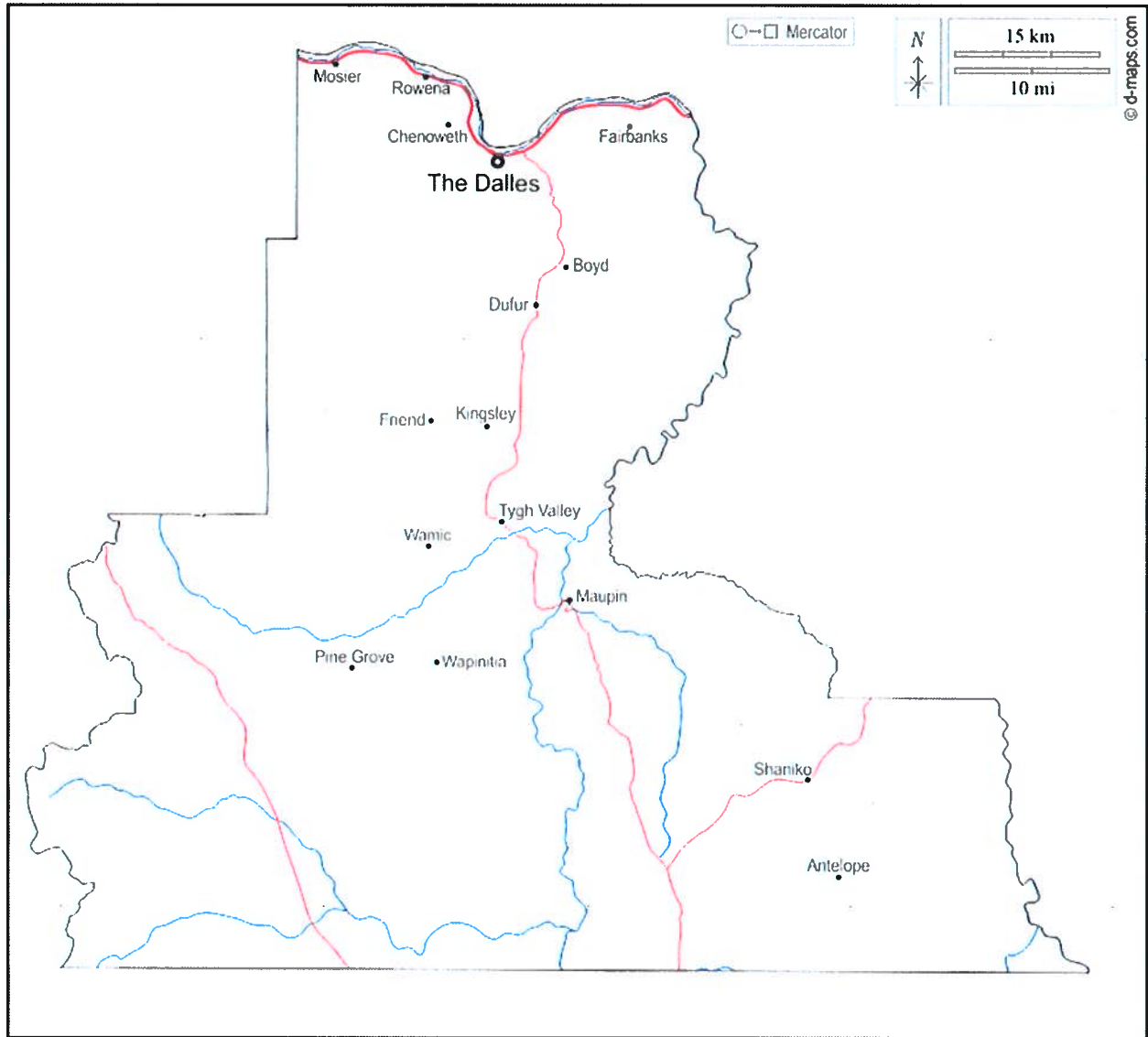
Which land use (crop, range, irrigated pasture, forest) is your main concern?

crop

Any tips or feedback to consider for future meetings?

Continue to the back...

Please circle the geographic area in Wasco County that best represents your area of concern and where you would like to see funding go to address these concerns.



Thank you for participating!

**Wasco County
Local Work Group Meeting
Participant Exit Survey**

Rank the following resource concerns from highest (#1) to lowest (#10) priority for conservation efforts in Wasco County:

Ranking	Concern	Ranking	Concern
	Soil erosion		Wildlife habitat
1	Soil health		Livestock conditions
	Water quantity		Air quality
	Water quality		Energy Efficiency
	Plant degradation		Other? _____

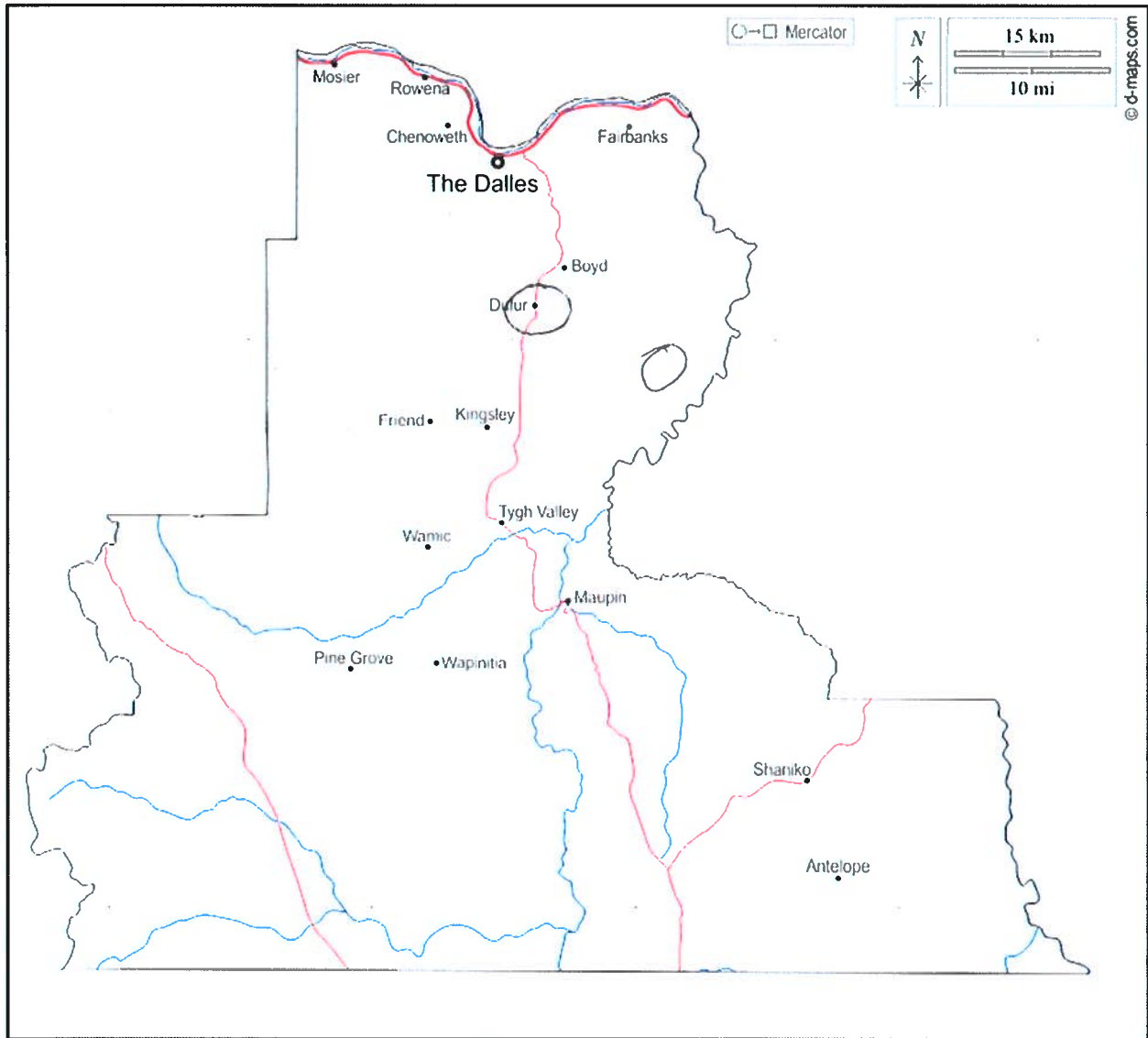
Based on the meeting discussion, what do you think the top priority issue(s) is/are that NRCS/SWCD should focus on in the immediate future?

Which land use (crop, range, irrigated pasture, forest) is your main concern?

Any tips or feedback to consider for future meetings?

Continue to the back...

Please circle the geographic area in Wasco County that best represents your area of concern and where you would like to see funding go to address these concerns.



Thank you for participating!