

Natural Resource Management in Rural Eastern Oregon

Grant County and John Day











Grant County OR

- Population: 7750
- Per capita Income: \$22.9k ('01- 19th out of 37counties– State ave. \$28.4k)
- Size: 4528 sq.mi.
- Largest Town: John Day
- Unemployment Rate: 11.6% (Oct 03)

Natural Resource Dependent Economies

- Long History of farming, ranching, mining, forest practices
- Intermingled public/private lands
- Strong dependence on extractive resource uses from public lands (FS and BLM)
- Long history of cooperation between communities and agencies
- Mutual respect and trust
- 2 key laws: 1974 NFMA (FS), 1976 FLPMA (BLM)









Murderer's Coordinated Resource Management Plan

- Example of cooperation between private, local, state and federal partners (not a new concept)
- Begun in 1973 and continuing today
- 300k acres, 50 different landowners committed to principles of multiple-use management and sustainable practices
- Recreation, mining, livestock grazing, wild horses, timber and other forest products
- Significant wildlife values









Grant County Range Validation Project

- Another example of partnerships:
Cooperative research project involving the private sector, Grant County, Oregon State University, FS Pacific Northwest Research Station, BLM (mid 70s to mid 80s)
- Focus on applied research on rangeland management
- Objective was to apply current science

Shift in Public Values and Agency Priorities

- Over the past 2 decades the management agencies have modified policies and traditional programs
- Negative effects on associated industries and rural communities (mills closed, jobs lost, ranches sold)
- Many felt betrayed
- Many agency activities litigated
- Gridlock conditions

Grant County Moving Forward

- County moving forward with new businesses and new ideas
- New industrial park
- Installed power co-generation facility using forest biomass from overly dense forest lands
- Future uncertain, but community wants to move forward in spite of challenges







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