

The Partnership



Klamath Soil And
Water
Conservation
District



USDA
Natural Resources
Conservation
Service



USDA
Farm Service
Agency

Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness." ~Letter from Thomas Jefferson to George Washington (1787)

Who We Are, What We Do

Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District (KSWCD) is a leader in providing scientifically based technical assistance and financial resources in a manner that *supports landowner abilities to implement best management practices* that enhance the natural environment while protecting Klamath County's cultural, social, and economic values.

- Natural resource technical and financial assistance provider for solving natural resource problem (seek financial assistance for landowners to implement conservation practices)
- We help landowners implement land stewardship practices that enhance both the quality of the land and water and its productivity
- Conservation educators for students and citizens in Klamath County (Farm expo, Forestry tour)

- We work with the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency to secure financial assistance to plan, design, implement land management practices and programs authorized under the National Farm Bill.
- We work with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to implement the Oregon Agricultural Water Quality Management Act through public education and on-site visits with landowners to help correct problems
- We coordinate workshops on conservation practices and natural resource issues county wide (ex. soil health)
- We also provide no till drills to farmers and ranchers as a service, at very low cost

Lost River Focus Area

Stevenson Park to the Lost River Ranch

- ❖ The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) leadership are requiring that 25% of the funds that SWCDs receive from ODA be directed to a Focus Area that will measure change over time.
- ❖ We are working with the Lost River Advisory Committee to educate and work with the rural residential and agricultural producers to improve water quality, riparian, and land management within that focus area

Sprague River Soil Health Pilot Study

On the ground research and development

The Sprague River Soil Health Pilot Study was initiated in 2013 by KSWCD and partially funded by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Funding has been instrumental in the initial phase of soil health testing and setting up a test plots on one property in the Sprague River Valley. The over-arching goal of the study is to help improve soil health through various management practices which include dryland forage establishment. The SWCD is beginning to assist landowners in finding innovative ways to increase ranch productivity in light of the new “Proposed Settlement Agreement” and reduction in available water

Dryland Conversion Program

On-the-ground research and development

- Conversion from irrigated pasture to non-irrigated systems and soil health
- Dryland mix being used successful in the Sprague River Valley
- Test plot set up on Sprague River Ranch with 16 different cultural practices

Fish Hole Creek Water Storage

Concept stage

- ▶ Klamath SWCD has begun to explore and developed a conceptual model for water storage in the upper Klamath Lake watershed.
- ▶ With the prospects of future water supplies being limited, water storage is becoming more and more important to local agriculture and to the community as a whole. Funding is necessary to continue the development of the projects that are vital to the future of the Klamath Basin.



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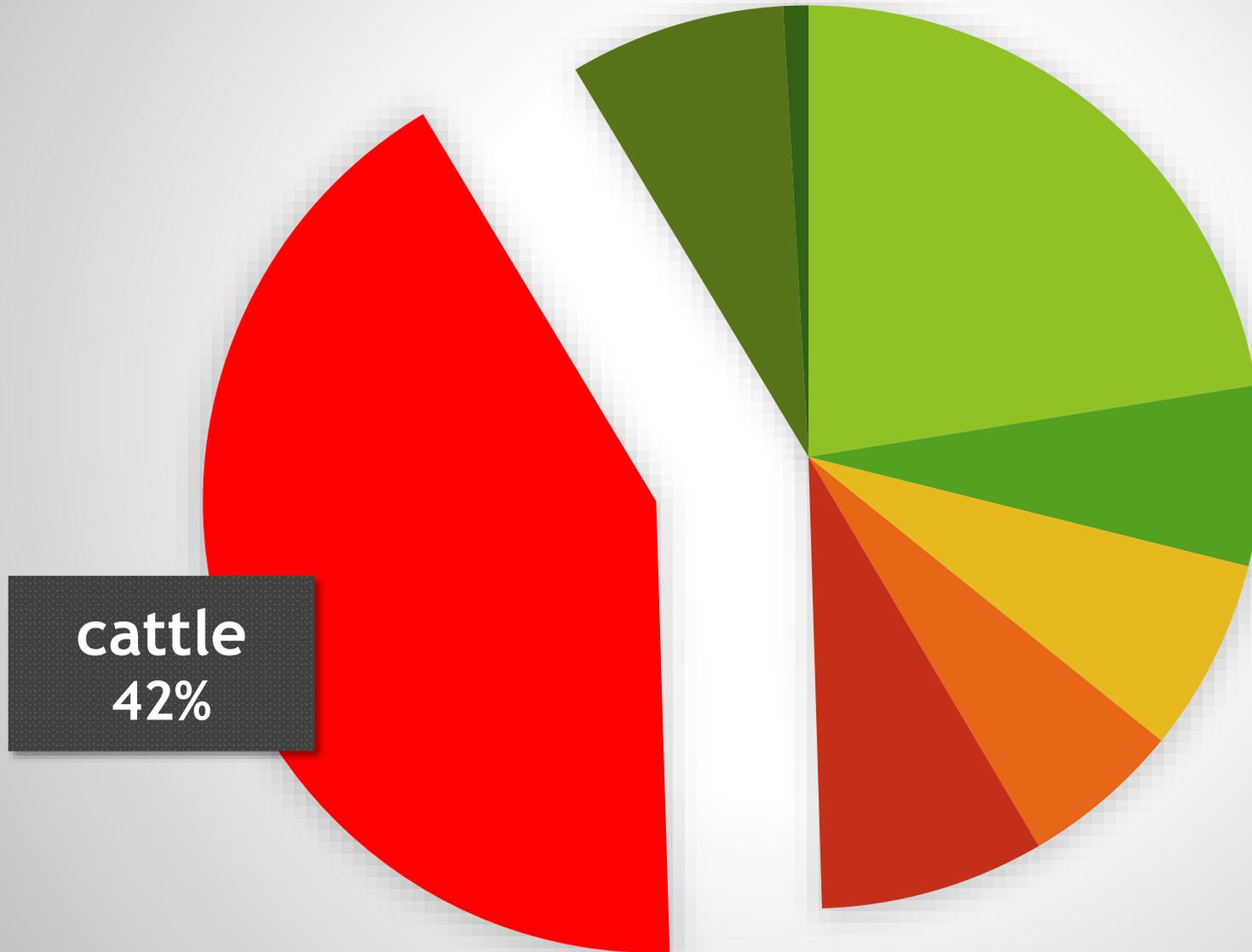
□ Current Needs:

Maintain current funding sources to address natural resource problems

Develop additional stable funding sources to allow staffing at adequate levels to address natural resource needs

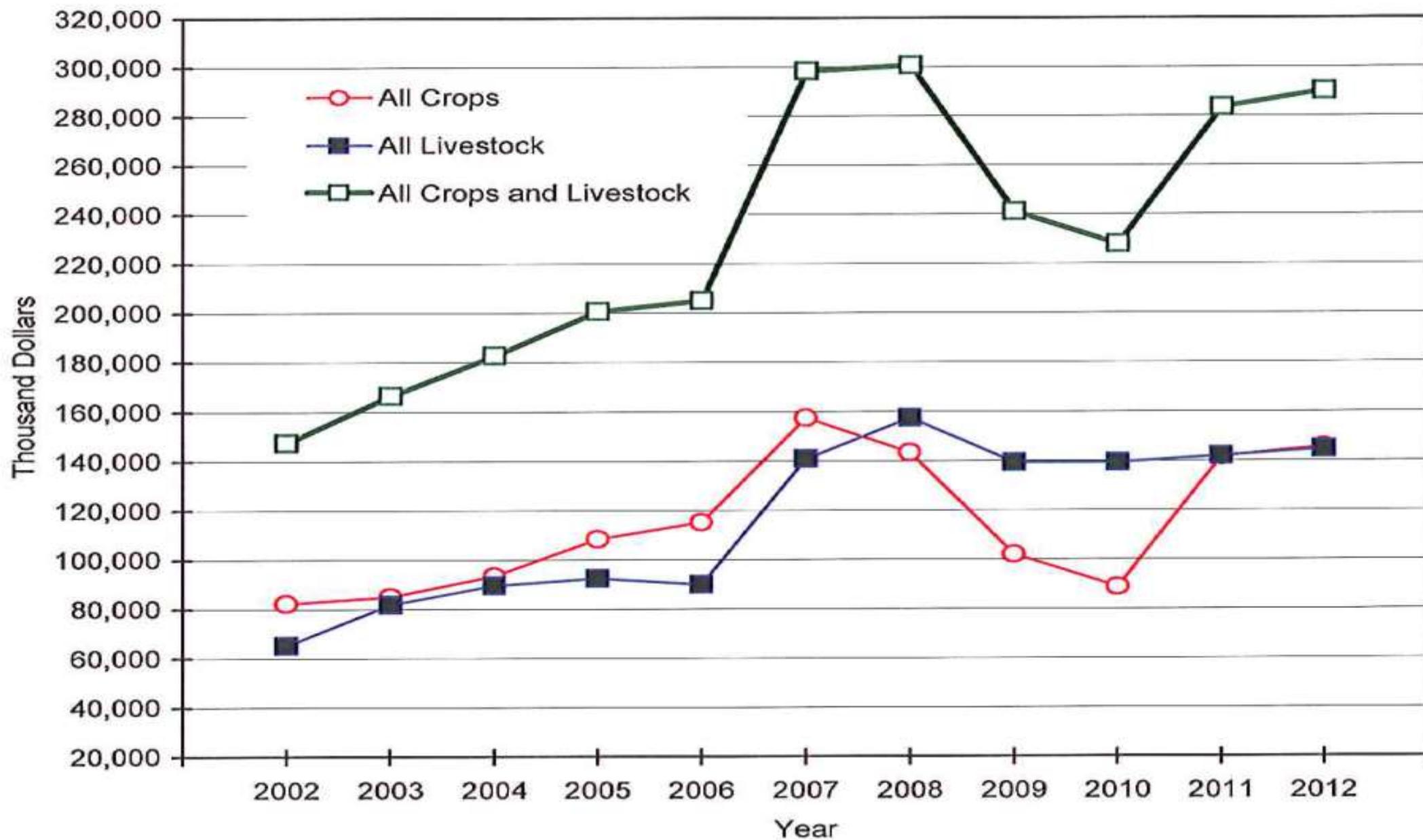
Projected staff needs include one full time management position, two technical positions targeting priority natural resource concerns and one office support.

Agricultural Commodity Sales



Klamath County 2002-2012

Total Gross Farm Sales



Agriculture Economic Future

Proposed settlement agreement

- ▶ 290 million in revenue from agriculture total
- ▶ 120 million in revenue from cattle, 42% of basin Ag economy
- ▶ Financial effects of the “Proposed Settlement Agreement” on Basin Ag are not clear but:
 - 18,000 acres of agricultural lands will be irrigated with limited production
 - ▶ Ranch property value could decline under the Proposed Settlement Agreement
 - ▶ Revenues to the county could decline by millions of dollars annually
 - ▶ Net loss from cattle grazing to basin business could be 20-25 million or 1/4th of the annual cattle income.

- Without a guaranteed source of feed, many outside cattle operations will choose not to bring cattle to the basin
- KSWCD is working hard to protect ranchers from the potential devastating affect by providing financial and crop assistance
- But without funding we are limited on the amount we can help

4.5.5 Proposed UKB Comprehensive Agreement

((“To the extent that (“*management measures will demonstrably and permanently reduce the profitability of a landowner’s operation*”) the agreement **MAY** provide for the landowners to be compensated accordingly”))