

John Williams, long time SRM member and County Chair for the Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service, Wallowa County, Oregon, has many, far reaching accomplishments. He is known regionally in northeastern Oregon as the “go-to guy” for rangeland management, water quality, land management, weed control, and team building. He is the motivation behind the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan which is touted in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, Canada, as the model to follow in dealing with the “sticky wickets” germane to creating an acceptable rare and endangered species recovery plan across three states and an international boundary! Mr. Williams would modestly suggest that the plan itself is not exportable, but that the process is....meaning that the format, protocol, and social/biophysical process which her fostered to resolve conflict and actively engage in positive pathways are the critical features of any successful plan.

Mr. Williams has been instrumental in the educational understanding and enhancement of Confined Animal feeding Operations (CAFO) requirements; with Local Environmental and Resource Network (LEARN) as a means of helping beleaguered landowners find ways to comply with land use regulations that are acceptable and financially do-able; he has provided leadership to the Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) which has provided over a million dollar in input toward road inventories, satellite imagery research, stewardship principles training, removal of fish passage barriers, vegetation projects, and off-site livestock watering implementation.

John Williams is a compelling force for the better. He is believable, acceptable, and clearly in it for the long haul.

