

**Molalla - Pudding - French Prairie - N Santiam
Agricultural Water Quality Management Area**
Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture & ODA Director
Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



Meeting Date: November 17, 2021
LAC Members Present: Dan Goffin (Chair), Ed Beitel, Gayle Goschie, Stephanie Rosentrater, Anthony Stevens, Brent Stevensen, Joan Zuber
Reporting Time Frame: November 2018 - October 2021 (3 years, due to COVID and staff vacancies)

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

This was a "Light" biennial review. Measures of progress will be reported in the Area Plan during the next "Full" biennial review.

- Pudding River Focus Area (Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District)**
- Assessment method: ODA Streamside Vegetation Assessment (SVA); 236.5 ag stream miles assessed
 - 2017: Tree + Shrub = 148.3 ag stream miles (62.7%)
 - 2019: Tree + Shrub = 149.2 ag stream miles (63.0%); increased due to riparian plantings
 - 2021: Tree + Shrub = 149.5 ag stream miles (63.2%); increased due to riparian plantings
 - 2021: Focus Area closed
- Mill Creek Focus Area (Marion Soil & Water Conservation District)**
- 2017 - 2019: ODA SVA method; 27.8 ag stream miles assessed
 - 2017: Tree + Shrub = 21.1 ag stream miles (76.0%)
 - 2019: Tree + Shrub = 21.1 ag stream miles (76.0%); no riparian plantings implemented
 - Six upland practices were implemented on 45 acres
 - Adaptive management resulted in change in assessment method to capture upland practices
 - 2019 - 2021: Upland assessment of bare ground vs. cover; 175,368 ag acres assessed
 - 2019: 246 ag acres (0.1%) with perennial cover
 - 2021: 759 ag acres (0.4%) with perennial cover; increased due to cover crop implementation
 - 2021: Focus Area closed; new Focus Area opened
- Bear Branch Focus Area (Linn Soil & Water Conservation District)**
- Assessment method: ODA Streamside Vegetation Assessment; 69.7 ag stream miles assessed
 - 2017: Tree + Shrub = 39.0 ag stream miles (56.0%)
 - 2019: Tree + Shrub = 39.1 ag stream miles (56.1%); increased due to riparian plantings
 - 2021: Tree + Shrub = xx.x ag stream miles (xx.x%); [2021 results not available yet]
 - 2021: Focus Area is continuing

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND IMPEDIMENTS

Progress: The LAC was pleased with the progress reported by the three SWCDs. LAC members commented that in areas with thin topsoil, landowners use erosion prevention to keep their soil on the land. LAC members also commented that everyone can do their small part and it adds up to a lot of progress.

Impediments: Regarding the mercury TMDL, LAC members were concerned that the large load reduction (88% or 97%) will be challenging to achieve that runoff from other sectors (roads, roofs) and post-fire runoff could contribute additional mercury to streams. LAC members expressed concerns that some Christmas tree and nursery growers may not be adopting erosion prevention methods such as cover crops.

RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Local partners are working with Christmas tree growers to identify filter strip types that do not attract pests (mice, voles), which would also reduce the need for pesticides. The LAC encourages additional outreach about the use of cover crops to prevent erosion from crop lands.

COMPLIANCE ACTIONS (Total of 18 Compliance Cases)

Location	Letter of Compliance	Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
Outside SIA(s)	7	20	1	1
Within SIA(s)	1 (Lower Abiqua)	3 (Walker Stout)	0	0