



**Oregon**  
Department  
of Agriculture

# Wallowa Subbasin Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan

December 2009

## Wallowa Local Advisory Committee Meets to Review Area Plan Implementation

### *Executive Summary*

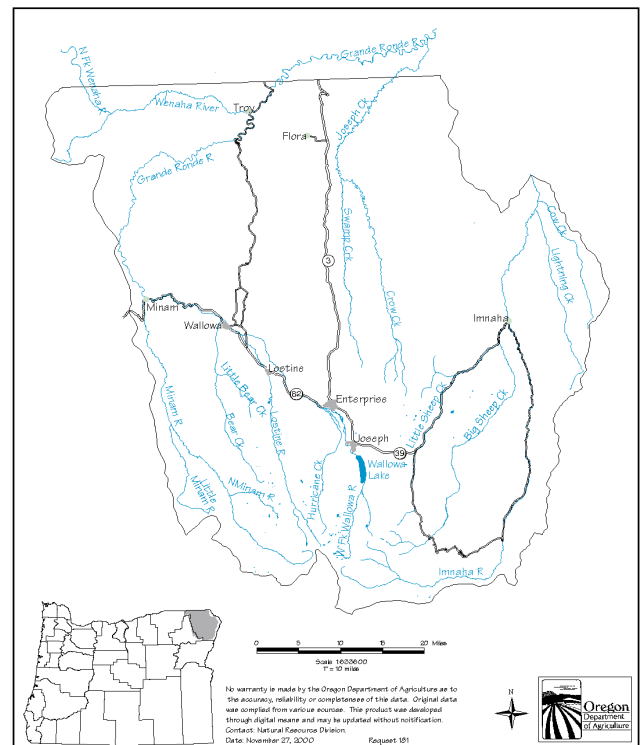
The third biennial review of the Wallowa Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan was held on December 10, 2009. The Wallowa Local Advisory Committee (LAC) met with the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to review progress of the Area Plan implementation. LAC members present were Don Stonebrink, Ed Jones, Bob Stangel and Charlie Warnock. Also attending were John Williams, OSU Extension Service and Cynthia Warnock, SWCD manager.

The SWCD presented their report of implementation activities conducted by the SWCD over the past two years. The report included an overview of the education and outreach activities and technical assistance provided to landowners during 2007-2009.

ODA reviewed the goals and objectives of the Area Plan and presented a PowerPoint on riparian conditions and compliance issues around the state.

LAC members were asked to comment on any barriers that existed that were impeding the progress of implementation of the Ag Water Quality Program. None were identified.

### **Wallowa Agricultural Water Quality Management Area**



**The Wallowa Management Area includes all private lands that drain into the Wallowa, Lower Grande Ronde and Imnaha Rivers.**

### *Compliance Summary*

No investigations were conducted by ODA during the review period.



## Summary of Accomplishments



*One of several bridges installed over Prairie Creek to allow for operation of a center pivot without contributing sediment to creek*

### Background

The Area Plan was developed by the LAC in 2001 to identify strategies to reduce water pollution from agricultural lands through a combination of educational programs, monitoring, suggested land treatment, and management activities.

The Area Plan is also used by landowners and the SWCD to provide guidance to solutions for water quality problems and to enhance public awareness and understanding of water quality issues.

In September 2001, the Oregon Board of Agriculture adopted the Area Plan and Oregon Administrative Rules (603-095-1800 thru 1860). Biennial reviews of the progress of implementation of the Area Plan were conducted in 2005 and 2007.

The Area Plan will serve as the component of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to address agricultural water quality concerns when it is adopted in 2010.

### Implementation Activities

The Wallowa SWCD is an active partner with ODA and other agencies in the implementation of the Ag Water Quality Program.

The following is a summary, listed by Area Plan goal, of some of the implementation activities conducted by the SWCD and partners.

#### 1. To prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities and soil erosion and to achieve applicable water quality standards.

- The SWCD sponsored six small and three large grants from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Practices installed included: upland water developments, riparian fencing, culvert replacement, replacing open irrigation ditches with buried pipelines, and bridges over a creek to allow for operation of a center pivot.
- Landowners enrolled 172.7 acres in the USDA - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).
- Landowners used the USDA - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to apply No-till to 3,348 acres, install 23,399 feet of pipeline to replace open ditches, and install six upland water developments.

#### 2. Use the media and other educational methods to increase awareness of agriculture's efforts to maintain and improve water quality.

- The SWCD sent out quarterly newsletters informing landowners on irrigation and weed control practices and USDA cost-share programs.



*An example of a successful CREP project with weed mats for weed control, plant protectors to protect plants during establishment and fencing to control livestock.*

LAC Plan Review: *continued*



**3. Write an Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan that works within the guidelines of the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan and Multi-Species Strategy.**

- The SWCD worked with the Wallowa County National Resource Advisory Committee on proposed projects and participated in the Joseph Creek Watershed assessment.

**4. Minimize conditions on agricultural lands that might contribute to a reduction in water quality.**

- Multi-agency analysis of Lostine River problems.
- Participated in the Department of Environmental Quality process to develop TMDLs for the Wallowa subbasin.
- Acted as clearinghouse for technical information on conservation practices.
- Served on Wallowa County Technical Committee to advise on natural resource activities.
- Grande Ronde Model Watershed continues to work on channel modification and fish passage issues.
- Oregon Water Resources Department continues to monitor streamflows to aid in management of fish and water quality projects.

**5. Educate not regulate.**

- The SWCD and NRCS held an irrigation workshop to inform landowners on irrigation efficiency measures and energy savings practices.

**LAC Members**

Don Stonebrink, Chair  
 Chris Cunningham  
 Ed Jones  
 Max Mallory  
 Kevin Melville  
 Brian Sines  
 Bob Stangle  
 Shawn Steen  
 Charlie Warnock  
 Dan Warnock

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*We're on the Web!*

[http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/water\\_quality\\_front.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/water_quality_front.shtml)