# UPPER DESCHUTES

## Agricultural Water Quality Management Area



**Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director** *Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)* 

#### Meeting Date: February 21, 2023

LAC Members Present: Marc Thalacker (Chair, attendance via phone), Gen Hubert, Todd Cleveland, Rex Barber, Leslie Clark

Reporting Time Frame: Calendar years 2020-2022

### **PROGRESS MEASUREMENT**

This was a Light Review; progress toward Measurable Objectives will be reported at the next Full Review.

Activities (Deschutes SWCD)	#	Discussion
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	10	On-farm workshops and meetings
Landowners Participating in Active Events	104	Participation in workshops
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	256	
Site Visits	124	
Conservation Plans Written	23	
Funding Applications Submitted	70	
Funding Applications Awarded	34	

\* Number reported likely double-counts some landowners due to tracking methods.

#### LAC DISCUSSION

#### **Summary of Progress**

Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD) held four Irrigation Water Management (IWM) workshops and meetings. Workshops included three IWM workshop series for adapting to drought conditions and one workshop for Three Sisters Irrigation District patrons. These workshops included presentations from DSWCD, Oregon State University, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Thompson Pump, energy companies, and landowners. DSWCD received funding through Deschutes County through the American Rescue Plan Act program to assist landowners with converting irrigation systems from flood to sprinkler. DSWCD developed a program and received 33 applications, with 15 projects funded up to \$20,000 toward project implementation costs. Currently, six of these projects have been completed for a total of 50.5 acres. Two small water quality improvement projects have been completed for six patrons along an open ditch in Arnold Irrigation District. DSWCD provided technical assistance on irrigation efficiency and water savings improvement projects throughout the county. The SIA open house was completed and outreach to landowners will occur over the next four years.

#### Impediments

- Lack of ODA and SWCD staff to complete management area-wide measurable assessments.
- Drought conditions/lack of water to irrigate pastures to grow hay are causing over-grazing in riparian areas.
- · Converting to efficient irrigation systems are costly for landowners.

#### **Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management**

- Include language that addresses drought impacts in the Management Area.
- Consider prioritizing riparian vegetation management area-wide assessment per sub-basin/per year to help with workload and accomplishing the objective.
- Track conserved water applications from irrigation districts.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES											
Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions							
				Letter of	Compliance	Pre-	Notice of	Civil			
	New	Closed		Already in compliance	Brought into compliance	Enforcement Notification	Noncompliance	Penalty			
Outside SIA	5	6	6	5	0	2	1	0			
Within SIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			