Management Area: Inland Rogue

Meeting Date(s): November 14, 2017 and February 28, 2018

LAC Members Present: Bob Niedermeyer (Chair), Ron Meyer, Tom Dover, Paul Kay, Ron Hillers, Larry Ford, Greg Walch, Colleen Roberts, Denis Reich

Progress Measurement – Measurable Objectives: Wagner Creek SIA complete. Neil Creek SIA project in implementation phase. Focus Area progress in all 3 SWCD areas.

Actions/Implementation Summary:

Outreach and Education:

Illinois Valley SWCD: Landowners Contacted: 12, Presentations/Workshops: 5 (315 participants), Tours/Demos: 1 (2 attendees), Displays/Info Booths: 2 (310 visitors), Fact Sheets/Brochures: 1, Fact Sheets/Brochures Distributed: 183, Newsletters: 5 (250 distributed), Newspaper Articles: 11

Two Rivers SWCD:
Landowner contacts, Josephine County Fair, Ag Chemical Collection Event, Cannabis: 1-day Event: 475 attendees, Horse/Small Acreage Program, Firewise Program, 4 classes on basic winter/spring pasture, mud/manure mgmt classes for com'1 ops (horse facilities), small acreage/horse owners. Jackson SWCD: 42 workshops with a total of 1,737 participants. Held 5 tours with 121 participants. District had booths/displays at 13 events with an estimated 480 visitors. Developed 66 fact sheets or brochures that were distributed to approximately 740 people.

Planning and Projects:

Illinois Valley SWCD: Landowners provided with tech assist: 64, On-site visits: 10, Fund apps submitted: 3, 0.4 acres riparian planting

Two Rivers SWCD: Landowners provided tech assist: 86, Site Visits: 18, 2 Irrigation Projects, 1 manure storage facility, riparian planting.

Jackson SWCD: Provided 431 landowners with tech assist and 313 landowners with on-site visits evaluations. 13 Ag, Water Quality projects were implemented on 94.5 acres (does not include SIA or Focus Area). 14 conservation plans have been completed totaling 173 acres.

Rogue River Watershed Council: Partnered with Medford Water Commission to develop Water Quality Improvement Plan for Little Butte Creek, Partnering with TFT to facilitate the Rogue Basin Partnership Ag Working Group, Water rights research on Birdseye Creek, conversion of irrigation water right on Salt Creek to protected instream flow right (research, water right valuation, contract development, and OWRD instream flow transfer application development with Trout Unlimited). 1 riparian project completed (Bitterlick Creek [2 acres]), 2 riparian restoration projects in implementation (Wagner Creek SIA [12 acres] and Sugarpine Creek [4 acres]), and 1 upland project in planning (manure facility, irrigation conversion, buffer strip, and drainage problems in the Neil Creek SIA).

The Freshwater Trust: Rest (Riparian Extent and Status Tool) is a webmap whose primary objective is prioritizing best bang-for-buck riparian restoration projects in the Inland Rogue that also align with planning objectives. In 2017 TFT procured support from the Drinking Water Providers Partnership to model and map sites that are most vulnerable to erosion and sediment loading in the Little Butte system. The SLAM (Sediment Loading Analysis and Measurement) tool is on track for a 2018 release. Bear Creek: At a working active ranch on the outskirts of Ashland, 14 acres of riparian restoration, about 50 large wood placements for instream juvenile salmonid habitat, and 2 miles of livestock fencing and off-channel watering were installed in 2015-16.

South Fork Little Butte Creek: 4 large wood projects were installed on working agland, 8 acres of riparian restoration and a quarter mile of livestock exclusion fencing with a crossing and watering system.

Monitoring:

Jackson SWCD: The District monitored 6 sites for pesticides on 4 different streams via the PSP. Monitoring 1 site for a flood to sprinkler irrigation conversion to measure the amount of pollution no longer contributed to the watershed.

Rogue River Watershed Council: Partnered with Jackson SWCD to develop water quality monitoring program for Antelope Creek in the Little Butte Creek Focus Area. Bear Creek Temperature Monitoring. ODA-Wagner Creek Temperature Monitoring: Deployed 3 temperature loggers in Wagner Creek.Snokei monitoring to track juvenile salmonids in Wagner Creek. Manage WISE Pre-Project Effectiveness Monitoring project in partnership with RVCOG, Jackson SWCD, and Jackson Watermaster's Office.

Funding and Grants:

Illinois Valley SWCD: ODA: $145,343.00, OWEB: $7,558, NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection: $289,181.00

Two Rivers SWCD: ODA/OWEB support to LAC: $141,860 Project Funding: 2 Irrigation Efficiency Grants (see above). 2 Riparian Weed (Perennial Pepperweed) Grants. 2017 DEQ 319 grant: Support was provided to local lab seeing trends in WQ.

Jackson SWCD: District received 14 funding apps to complete planned projects, totaling $79,861 of District Funds and leveraging $98,000.00 from other funding agencies. Utilized USDA NRCS funds for on-ground landowner projects through the GIS program.

Rogue River Watershed Council:

OWEB Capacity Grants – $118,425, Medford Water Commission Contracts (Water quality improvement planning in Little Butte Creek and project development) – $50,000, ODA/OWEB SIA Grants (Neil Creek SIA) – $96,371, OWEB TA Grant (Landowner Outreach) – $34,676, OWEB Monitoring Grant (2 grants for WISE Pre-Project Effectiveness Monitoring) – $67,222 + $41,497, OWEB Sugarpine Creek (riparian planting component) – $15,000, ODEQ Monitoring Grant (2 grants for WISE Pre-Project Effectiveness Monitoring) – $13,307 + $37,899, OWEB Long-Term Stream Temperature Monitoring Grant (Wagner Creek) – $2,744, Jackson SWCD District Funds Grants (Wagner Creek SIA) - $15,000, Private Foundation Grants (Wagner Creek SIA) - $8,000, Partner Contributions (WISE Monitoring) – $5,000, Rogue Basin Partnership (monitoring and agricultural working groups) – $6,000, Trout Unlimited contracts (Flow restoration) – $18,000

The Freshwater Trust: Received the DWWP grant in 2017 to fund development of the SLAM tool (described in technical assistance and planning).

Summary of Impediments: Additional funding is needed to ensure all agricultural producers in the Inland Rogue are aware of the Plan & Rules.

Recommendations for Modifications: LAC has asked SWCDs to update and implement the Inland Rogue AgWQ Education & Outreach Strategy Plan.

DEQ Recommendations: Most recommendations from DEQ were added to the Plan. SIA have been a great implementation tool.

Compliance:

Letter of Compliance - 13 Water Quality Advisory - 16 Letter of Warning - 1
Notice of Noncompliance - 0 Civil Penalty - 0 Alternative Measures - 2 New - 3

Total Complaints/Notifications: 41 (Cannabis=20)