

CURRY COUNTY

Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director

Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Meeting Date: March 27, 2025

LAC Members Present: In Person: Lynne Dewald, Jim Kamph, Steve Mazur, Lee Riddle. Online: Becky Crockett

Reporting Timeframe: Calendar years 2023–2024

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

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

Activities	#	Description
Curry Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD); Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)		
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	3	NRCS: 2 local work group meetings; CREP: 1 local work group.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	32	NRCS: 20 landowners, and 20 partners; CREP: 12.
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	141	Curry SWCD: 72; NRCS: 35; CREP: 34 In-office and site discussions of resource concerns, assistance types, best management practices, etc.
Site Visits	180	Curry SWCD: 127; NRCS: 30; CREP: 23 on-site assessments of new and ongoing installations, discussion of water quality and quantity, pasture management, drainage, fish passage, riparian status, erosion concerns.
Conservation Plans Written	15	NRCS: 13 EQIP contracts with plans; CREP: 2 complete CREP planning packets.
Funding Applications Submitted	32	Curry SWCD: 8; NRCS: 17 Environmental Quality Incentives Program and 4 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications; CREP: 3 submitted for CREP funding.
Funding Applications Awarded	23	Curry SWCD: 9; NRCS: 13 EQIP contracts; CREP: 1, some applications are pending review and enrollment opening.

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

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

- NRCS has projects and funding available for gorse control, cranberry irrigation improvements, and forestland improvements to reduce wildfire risk.
- At the previous Biennial Review, illegal cannabis operations were seen as a problem. That problem has seemed to diminish in Curry County during the past two years.
- It takes time, money, and effort to establish “free to grow” riparian buffers. The Curry Watershed Partnership does a lot of maintenance and “nobody really goes off the list” if they have a riparian buffer project. The CWP keep maintaining the buffers if there is funding.

Impediments

- The LAC views small “hobby” farms and how they might be brought into the fold regarding agricultural water quality rules and regulations as an impediment.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- Potential opportunity for workshops: 1) Mud and Manure, 2) Plants that are toxic to livestock, 3) OSU Small Farms, 4) Incorporate a large animal vet to give a presentation.

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

PROJECTS AND PRACTICES								
SWCD, Watershed Council Secured \$1.2 million in Grant Funds								
Curry SWCD and the Curry Watersheds Partnership provided technical assistance, grant writing, and grant management to eight projects on agricultural lands, securing more than \$1.2 million in grant funds for conservation/restoration project design and implementation in calendar years 2023–2024. Project types included riparian fencing and vegetation enhancement, offstream water development, streambank restoration, and stream channel restoration. Funders included Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Bureau of Land Management, Bandon Dunes Charitable Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership, Drinking Water Providers Partnership, Bureau of Reclamation, and private landowners.								
Curry SWCD: Ag Water Quality On-the-Ground-Practices Implemented								
Quarter #	12-Digit HUC #	NRCS Practice Code	NRCS Practice Name	NRCS Unit (acres, feet, #)	R-Riparian; U-Upland	# Implemented	Notes	Funding Source(s): (e.g., OWEB, CREP, EQIP, etc.)
1	171003060302	614	Watering Facility	5 sites	U	1		Landowner/ OWEB
1	171003060302	382	Fence	5,640 ft.	U	1	Riparian fence	Landowner
4	171003060403	382	Fence	5,600 ft.	R	1	Riparian fence	OWEB/ Landowner
4	171003060403	614	Watering facility	1 site	U	1		OWEB/ Landowner
5	171003060102	612	Tree/shrub establishment/moisture conservation	14 acres	R	1	Maintain plantings	BLM (via OWEB)
5	171003060203	580	Streambank and shoreline protection	500 ft.	R	1		OWEB/ USFS