

LOWER JOHN DAY
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: October 11, 2023
LAC Members Present: Rich Harper and John Anderson
Reporting Time Frame: Calendar years 2021-2023

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

Management Area

Measurable Objective: *Pollution from wastes*. By June 30, 2037, reduce the number of livestock operations identified that are likely to pollute perennial streams to 0% through voluntary efforts, assuming funding is available.

Current Conditions:

	2017	2023
Livestock Operations	10	9

Activities and Accomplishments: Through the Thirtymile Strategic Implementation Area (SIA), ODA worked with one landowner to move their livestock operation away from stream.

Measurable Objective: *Riparian vegetation*. By June 30, 2027, assuming funding is available, 75% of perennial streams in agricultural areas will have streamside vegetation that likely provides the full suite of water quality functions the site is capable of growing (Class I).

Current Conditions:

Classes	2016	2023
Class I: Fully provided.	64%	71%
Class II: Partially provided, not impaired by agricultural activities	31%	24%
Class III: Likely not provided due to agricultural activities	4%	4%
Class IIIx: Likely not provided due to weeds	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Activities and Accomplishments:

- The Thirtymile SIA identified and improved Class I streamside vegetation.
- In addition, Class 1 increased due to the following non-regulatory programs: Focused Investment Partnership and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Measurable Objective: *Soil erosion*. To be developed by the next biennial review meeting.

Activities and Accomplishments:

- Funding and technical assistance was provided for maintenance of existing soil erosion practices.
- Sherman Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) continues to fund new projects that decrease/minimize soil erosion in both cropland and rangeland.
- Sherman SWCD and local NRCS are currently taking inventory on the amount of water and sediment control basins that need to be repaired. If the amount is substantial (which is predicted), then partners will create a conservation implementation strategy for funding. SWCDs continue to provide ongoing technical assistance to landowners to continue to keep soil loss below soil loss tolerance.

Strategic Implementation Area (SIA)

ODA Measurable Objective: By December 28, 2022, all 14 tax lots identified as a Potential Violation or Compliance Opportunity will be downgraded to Restoration Opportunity or Likely in Compliance.

Current Conditions: Monitoring efforts continue in the SIA.
 Progress Toward Measurable Objective: As of July 2, 2021, all 14 tax lots identified as a Potential Violation or Compliance Opportunity were downgraded to Restoration Opportunity or Likely in Compliance.

Management Area-wide Activities	#	Discussion
Gilliam and Sherman SWCDs		
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	31	
Landowners Participating in Active Events	596	

Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	969	
Site Visits	364	
Conservation Plans Written	126	
Funding Applications Submitted	86	
Funding Applications Awarded	61	

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

LAC DISCUSSION
Summary of Progress
The SWCDs and local partners continue to show progress toward meeting the goal and measurable objectives in the area plan.
Impediments
<p><u>Riparian vegetation</u>: Restoration projects could lead to landowners losing farmable land. Permits and cultural resource surveys need to be streamlined. Bureau of Land Management is buying parcels of land but not managing them for riparian restoration projects. New cultural resource requirements for OWEB grants will slow projects down.</p> <p><u>Soil erosion</u>: Potential for more soil loss to occur if landowners no longer participate in CRP. ODA met with NRCS staff to discuss new RUSLE method. Due to limited resources, NRCS will not provide a RUSLE run for the Lower John Day Management Area.</p> <p><u>Pollution from wastes</u>: Livestock operation that are likely to pollute is not defined.</p> <p><u>Other</u>: Not enough staff to implement projects.</p>
Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management
<p><u>Riparian vegetation</u>: Conduct a demonstration project showcasing riparian vegetation and floodplain connection that will slow and retain water in the management area. Conduct field trips for people who are doing the permitting as well as legislator so they can see the projects that they are permitting, especially for BDAs.</p> <p><u>Soil erosion</u>: ODA, SWCDs, and the LAC decided to develop a different assessment method that can easily be repeated to ensure soil loss does not change over time.</p> <p><u>Pollution from wastes</u>: ODA and the SWCDs will define the threshold for what determines if a livestock operation is likely to pollute.</p> <p><u>Other</u>: Placed Based Planning program will address drinking water concerns in the Management Area. Increase capacity funding.</p>

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