

MID COAST

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: February 6, 2024
LAC Members Present: Richard Huff, Howard Pazdral, Kevin Carroll, Renee Coxen, Alan Fujishin, Joe Steere, and Margaret Treadwell
Reporting Timeframe: 2020-2023 calendar years

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

Management Area

Measurable Objective: N/A

Focus Area: Fiddle and Maple Creeks

<p>Long-term measurable objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. Year (how long do you hope to work in this FA?): E. Long-term amount to achieve (with units): F. Long-term percent to achieve: 	<p>Fiddle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 • Combined Tree + Native Shrub= 124.24 Acres (60%) • Need to plant 14.3 riparian acres of Trees + Native Shrubs in order to achieve long-term measurable objective. <p>Maple:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 • Combined Tree + Native Shrub= 107.64 Acres (40%) • Need to plant 10.5 riparian acres of Trees + Native Shrubs in order to achieve long-term measurable objective.
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Strategic Implementation Area (SIA): 2020 Upper Yaquina River SIA

Evaluation Results: As of June 29, 2021, 4 tax lots were identified as either a Potential Violation or a Compliance Opportunity. PV = 0, CO = 4, RO = 56, LC = 89

ODA Measurable Objective: As of June 29, 2025, all 4 tax lots identified as a Potential Violation or a Compliance Opportunity will be downgraded to Restoration Opportunity or Likely in Compliance.

Adaptive Management Discussion: SIA is open and SIA work is continuing. An adaptive management discussion will be available at the next biennial review.

Management Area-wide Activities	#	Discussion
Benton, Lincoln, Siuslaw SWCDs		
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	8	Annual meetings, native plant sales, educational workshops, district open houses.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	400	Most participation in events in the Siletz basin.
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	320	
Site Visits	200	
Conservation Plans Written	8	
Funding Applications Submitted	8	
Funding Applications Awarded	6	

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

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

- Siuslaw SWCD and Lincoln SWCD provided updates on restoration, monitoring, and engagement within their respective districts.
- Bear Creek has proven to be an opportunity area for Siuslaw SWCD, with many landowners willing to work with the district.

- Fiddle Creek landowners have been very open to voluntary monitoring with Siuslaw SWCD because it is an essential salmonid habitat stream.
- Increased restored acres of agricultural lands in this Management Area by 15 percent in the past 10 years.

Impediments

- It has been extremely challenging to recruit new LAC members in this area.
- Maple Creek residents are less open to Focus Area monitoring than Fiddle Creek; lack of district capacity is partially contributing to this hesitancy. Staff longevity can create challenges working with landowners; building trust takes time.
- There are not many landowners in either watershed in the Focus Area. One unwilling landowner can comprise a large portion of the watershed, limiting the area in which we can do conservation and restoration work.
- Railway system bisects aquatic habitat, causing challenges to large scale and meaningful restoration projects being possible in the area.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- In response to the request for help recruiting LAC members for the five vacant spaces, the LAC noted a strong preference for recruiting local landowners and agricultural producers. Members cautioned against losing the local focus of the LAC by having too many organizations/agencies on the LAC. LAC recommends filling remaining five vacant spots with local landowners and agricultural producers to best reflect the desires and challenges of the region.
- Lincoln SWCD noted the importance of pesticide safety and water quality education for the general public.
- SIA projects are not competitive for funding from OWEB. Funding sources for smaller projects is needed.
- SWCD staff capacity is paramount to foster relationships with landowners and encourage voluntary practices
 - a. Increasing funding for Scope of Work funds
 - b. Willing landowners are key to moving projects forward. District staff capacity could help with landowner relations.
- Programs providing funding for landowners to restore streamsidess should maintain stream channel maps from original application so that when landowners renew a grant or fund, the standards are not changing on them as the stream naturally moves.
- ODA Monitoring Specialist noted the upcoming TMDL implementation plan for the Yaquina. Next Area Plan review and LAC meeting will review TMDL implementation plan and incorporate it into the Area Plan.
- Pre-Covid, landowners were actively solicited to submit stories about what restoration they are doing, and this is happening less now. LAC recognized the importance of getting landowners and producers to share personal success stories for positive outreach and potential testimony for statewide policy. Suggest writing/sharing positive news articles on landowner success stories in local newspapers and district newsletters.

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	3	4	5	2	1	2	0	0
Within SIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0