

UMPQUA BASIN

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 5, 2025
LAC Members Present: Paul Heberling, Walt Gayner, Bill Hoyt, and Tom Black
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	#	Discussion
Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Douglas SWCD		
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	36	<p>DOUGLAS SWCD: 22 UMPQUA SWCD: 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRCS Local Work Group Meeting: AgWQ presentation. OSU Mud and Manure Workshop with Umpqua SWCD, Douglas SWCD, OSU Small Farms, and OSU Animal and Rangeland Sciences. Mud and Manure Farm Tour with Umpqua SWCD, Douglas SWCD, OSU Small Farms, OSU Livestock Forages, and OSU Animal and Rangeland Sciences. OSU Best Fields First 2023: Presented information to livestock producers about agricultural water quality best management practices and available funding options to implement practices. Glover Estuary Enhancement Pre-Project Tour organized by Umpqua SWCD for the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers and local landowners, public. Presented agricultural water quality information and funding options at the Port of Umpqua Port Commissioners meeting. Soils 101 for Landowners at the Winchester Bay Community Center with Umpqua SWCD and OSU Small Farms Program. Douglas NRCS Local Work Group Meeting at the Port of Umpqua Annex with Umpqua SWCD hosting and presenting. City of Reedsport Parks and Beautification Committee: Presentation about the Leeds Island Project. Reedsport City Council Workshop Meeting: Presentation about the Leeds Island Project. City of Reedsport City Council Meeting: Presentation about the Leeds Island Project and information session with virtual project tour. Digging in: Taking Soil Samples in the Farm or Garden with Umpqua SWCD and OSU Small Farms held at the Elkton Community Education Center. OSU Best Fields First 2024: Presented information about agricultural water quality projects and funding options available. Agricultural water quality farm tour of two OWEB Small Grant projects. <p><i>Also, 4,171 newsletters were distributed to the Umpqua SWCD area.</i></p>
Landowners Participating in Active Events	571	DOUGLAS SWCD: 475 UMPQUA SWCD: 96
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	345	DOUGLAS SWCD: 238 UMPQUA SWCD: 107
Site Visits	111	DOUGLAS SWCD: 71 UMPQUA SWCD: 40
Conservation Plans Written	15	DOUGLAS SWCD: 10 UMPQUA SWCD: 5

Funding Applications Submitted	24	DOUGLAS SWCD: 10 UMPQUA SWCD: 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OWEB Small Grant (SG): Parent Ranch Heavy Use Protection Area • OWEB SG: Elk Creek Riparian Restoration Project • Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby Elk Creek Riparian Restoration Project • OWEB SG: Parent Ranch Heavy Use Protection Area • OWEB SG: Baumgartner Ranch Livestock Exclusion Area • OWEB SG: Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Phase I • Business Oregon Levy Program: Providence Creek Tidegates Replacement for technical assistance (TA) preapplication • OWEB SG: Elk Creek Riparian Enhancement (second submission) • Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby: Water Quality Monitoring Equipment • BLM RAC: Umpqua SWCD Noxious Weed Control and Elimination • USFWS: Umpqua SWCD Noxious Weed Control • Business Oregon Levy Program General Application for Tidegate Replacement for TA for design, engineering, surveying, permits, and public meetings. • OWEB TA: Umpqua Estuary Fish Passage and Water Quality Improvement for planning, design, engineering, permits for one tidegate, five bridges, heavy use areas, livestock exclusion fencing, off-stream livestock watering, riparian plantings for three projects. • OWEB SG: Costa Ranch Runoff Management and Heavy Use Protection
Funding Applications Awarded	17	DOUGLAS SWCD: 10 UMPQUA SWCD: 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OWEB SG: Providence Creek Ranch Runoff Management and Heavy Use Protection • OWEB SG: Parent Ranch Heavy Use Protection Area (cancelled due to land use issues) • OWEB SG: Baumgartner Ranch Livestock Exclusion Area • OWEB SG: Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Phase 1 • OWEB SG: Elk Creek Riparian Enhancement • OWEB SG: Costa Ranch Runoff Management and Heavy Use Protection • Business Oregon Providence Creek Tidegate TA

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

LAC DISCUSSION	
Summary of Progress	
It is good to see the increase in SWCD projects and landowners implementing recommended practices in the Umpqua Basin. Ag Day, Livestock Association Spring Conference, and large outreach events are helpful.	
Impediments	
It is expected that there will be less federal funding available for conservation/agricultural water quality in the near future. There will be higher costs for everything as the result of tariffs; restoration becomes a lower priority for landowners when costs increase for simple things such as hay and fencing. High quality federal personnel are being fired and it is unknown how workloads are going to be handled, especially with the required consultations.	
Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management	
Douglas SWCD is looking into fundraising options.	

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	11	8	20	2	0	9	0	0
Within SIA	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	0