

# MIDDLE DESCHUTES

## 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

<b>Meeting Date:</b> March 6, 2023
<b>LAC Members Present:</b> Lloyd Forman, Mickey Killingsworth, Brad Klann, Lori Campbell, Evan Thomas, Chase Duncan, Rob Gaylen, Trevor Derstine
<b>Reporting Time Frame:</b> Calendar years 2020-2022

### PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

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

Activities (Jefferson SWCD, Wasco SWCD, and Middle Deschutes WC)	#	Discussion
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	9	Presented projects at annual Farm Fair; two Farm Fair presentations included riparian and uplands restoration in Willow Creek and Trout Creek; landowner meeting for resource concerns of Upper Willow Creek landowners; two field days that invited landowners/volunteers to plant riparian tree species on Auger Creek; tour of the Pelton fish trap.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	117	Farm Fair: six landowners participated in the landowner meeting and one landowner participated in the planting day.
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	100	Provided technical assistance to 86 landowners through drought relief funds, six within North Unit Irrigation District boundaries, and others in Trout Creek.
Site Visits	293	Site visits included irrigated farms and stream restoration. Visited two landowners to assess the viability of juniper removal projects.
Conservation Plans Written	8	Five in Trout Creek, two Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), one Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plan covering 302.93 acres.
Funding Applications Submitted	33	Small Grants, plus Trout Creek; CREP; Pesticide Stewardship Program (PSP); and emergency drought relief/application for a pivot upgrade.
Funding Applications Awarded	33	CREP; PSP; emergency drought relief; pivot upgrade; beaver dam analog; juniper removal; hydrologic restoration.

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

### LAC DISCUSSION

#### Summary of Progress

**Management Areawide Measurable Objectives:** Progress was made but not re-evaluated for this biennial review. Assessment will be updated for the 2025 biennial review.

**Campbell Creek Strategic Implementation Area:** ODA is on track to meet the measurable objective. All Potential Violations were downgraded.

**Advisory Committee:** Progress has been made within the North Unit Irrigation District for canal piping resulting in conserved water.

#### Impediments

- Lack of ODA staff to complete Management Area-wide measurable assessments.
- Drought conditions are changing management practices in the Management Area.
- Cost of living and low pay makes it challenging to keep staff on board.
- Committee would like to see more funding for weeds.
- DEQ approval of sampling analysis plans (SAPs) for Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) monitoring takes too long (approximately four months).

- Landowners are not aware of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) funding for agricultural water quality projects. The number of OWEB small grants are minimal compared to demand.

**Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management**

- Adaptive Management: SIA technical assistance funding was reallocated to the SIA monitoring program.
- Weed control and vegetation stand assessments need to be a component of the SIA program.
- Herbicide treatment needs to include active seed planting (consult with NRCS on type of seeds/practices).
- Continue soil health funding.
- Progress within North Unit Irrigation District for irrigation upgrades needs to be included in Area Plan.

**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	4	4	4	3	0	1	0	0