



**AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA
BIENNIAL REVIEW SUMMARY REPORT TO THE BOA & DIRECTOR
SUBMITTED BY THE LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Management Area: Hood River
Meeting Date(s): December 13, 2018
LAC Members Present: Brian Nakamura, John Buckley, Blayne Eineichner, and Jim Wells
<p>Progress Measurement:</p> <p>Odell SIA progress: The SWCD secured OWEB grant funds for two “significant” landowners needing improvements. One project is almost complete and includes hardened cattle crossings, riparian fencing, and plantings. The other project includes fencing, hardened crossings, off channel watering, and stream channel reconstruction and will be completed in 2019. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs provided ~\$5,000 in fence materials for Odell SIA landowners for future projects.</p> <p>Odell dam removal site update: Natives that were planted at the old dam and impoundment site have shown high survival rates and riparian conditions are promoting bank stability and future shade to the creek. Dam removal and channel recontouring is resulting in normal sediment transport (no more pulses).</p> <p>Pesticide Stewardship Partnership: No organophosphate pesticide exceedances occurred in 2017, but one sample exceeded the EPA aquatic life benchmark – imidacloprid in Odell Creek. Herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides continue to be detected at concentrations below water quality standards, sub-lethal effects thresholds, or acute toxicity standards.</p> <p>East Fork Eastside Lateral Pipeline Project: A system improvement plan and the preliminary investigative report have been completed for this canal to pipeline project. An engineering firm has been selected to design the pipeline.</p> <p>East Fork Hood River: The Highline Lateral diversion ditch to pipeline project was implemented and fully functional in 2018. The project will improve water quality and instream flows by 0.5 cfs on the East Fork Hood River.</p> <p>On-farm irrigation efficiency projects implemented over the past two years have resulted in over 0.85 cfs of water left in Hood River streams.</p>
<p>Actions/Implementation Summary:</p> <p><i>Outreach and Education:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations and workshops: 2 to Board of Commissioners (1 specific to Odell SIA); 2 to Irrigation District boards; 2 on conservation plantings and native plants; 2 on noxious weeds; 2 on soil health and mud and manure management • Site visits with landowners: 3 to assess/consult on riparian enhancements; 1 on wetland management; 3 on Ag WQ related projects; 1 on livestock fencing; 1 on stormwater management • Odell SIA outreach: open house planning, publicizing and 1 presentation; 5 Odell SIA site visits, multiple in-depth consultations with 6 SIA landowners; 4 news articles on Odell SIA; attended 6 onsite compliance inspections with ODA staff • 11 articles on conservation plant sale • 2 annual reports with updates on Ag WQ Management Program sent to ~1,200 annually • Display at 2 Hood River County Fairs • Website: Regularly maintained with information on water conservation, riparian care, ag plan and rules, and IWM techniques • Notable articles: 1 on mud, manure, and winter livestock care; 1 on PSP and agricultural BMPs • Quarterly eNews emailed to ≈1,100 (35-40% open rate) <p><i>Planning and Projects:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Odell SIA: Assist ODA as needed in providing TA to landowners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project development for 2 “significant” landowners needing improvements to their riparian area. 1 grant submitted and awarded for both projects, provided fencing to 1 “moderate” landowner, technical assistance with project implementation, follow-up with 5 “moderate landowners,” sent letters to 23 “low” concern landowners • Odell Creek dam removal: Site vegetation management (weed control and native plant establishment) • Indian Creek Focus Area: Re-evaluated the Focus Area and updated maps. Continued to provide technical assistance to landowners as needed. Donated 25 native plants from the plant sale to landowners for riparian planting • Neal Creek Focus Area: Compiled post-assessment results for ODA; an additional 400 ft of stream bank was planted • 1,700 plants donated for restoration, sold 11,000 plants for enhancement projects (not necessarily riparian) • Irrigation upgrades on 99 acres through five OWEB small grants and 193 acres through EQIP, commitment to water management on an additional 69 acres and 5,500 feet of irrigation pipeline installed <p><i>Monitoring:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Creek and Neal Creek Focus Area ground truthing and update to riparian condition ranking • Odell Creek dam removal site monitoring; project effectiveness monitoring report submitted to ODFW • Pesticide Stewardship Partnership: seasonal sampling and data analysis of 130+ analytes • Neal Creek turbidity monitoring (through 2017) • Ongoing temperature monitoring on lower Hood River (FID study) and upper Middle Fork tributaries

- 11 Year 2 monitoring reports and 7 completion reports on OWEB small grant irrigation improvement projects

Funding and Grants:

- Funds were received for 5 irrigation improvement projects on private land (OWEB small grants), two Odell SIA livestock improvement projects (OWEB), Phelps Creek canal to pipeline (OWEB and DEQ 319), East Fork Hood River Eastside Lateral canal to pipeline (NRCS RCPP), West Fork Hood River DID distribution pipeline (pending from OWRD, OWEB, Regional Solutions), Middle Fork Coe Branch Pipeline project (OWRD).

Summary of Impediments:

- Develop outreach material for specific management practices.
- LAC supports the improvements to the SIA process.
- Develop an outreach document for landowners for Recommended Practices (page 29) outlined in the Area Plan.

Recommendations for Modifications:

- LAC praises ODA's new SIA process.

DEQ Recommendations:

- DEQ requested more quantitative methods to evaluate riparian vegetation that more clearly link to the load allocation/shade curve.

Compliance:

- **Compliance actions outside Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs)**

Letter of Compliance - 0 Pre-Enforcement Notification - 0 Notice of Noncompliance - 0 Civil Penalty - 0

- **Compliance actions within SIA(s)**

Letter of Compliance - 6 Pre-Enforcement Notification - 2 Notice of Noncompliance - 0 Civil Penalty - 0*

*Landowners are currently working with SWCD to bring properties into compliance.

Notes: