



**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: Lower John Day**

**Meeting Date(s): March 21, 2019**

**LAC Members Present: Brad Eakin, Marvin Thompson, and Trevor Fields**

**Progress Measurement:**

**Gilliam SWCD: Middle Rock Creek Focus Area:** By 2019, decrease Ag Infrastructure [2.26 acres] and Bare Ag [7.26 acres] by 5 acres

**Sherman SWCD:** By June 30, 2019, Increase Class I (14.90 miles) by 1% = 15.90 miles

**Management Area Wide Assessment:** The SWCDs developed assessments for the Management Area to help achieve the Area Plan purpose and goal. They include Soil Erosion, Riparian Vegetation, and Livestock Operations. **Management Area-Wide**

**Measurable Objectives will be updated during the 2021 Biennial Review.**

**Soil Erosion:**

- Due to uncertainty of Farm Bill and other funding, measurable objectives were not developed. However, the goal is to keep soil loss below soil loss tolerance.

**Riparian Vegetation:**

- 2016: Current status of perennial streams are:

	<b>Sherman Co.</b>	<b>Gilliam Co.</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Class I: Fully provided</b>	102.38	234.5	336.9	64
<b>Class II: Partially provided, not impaired by agricultural activities</b>	22.41	143.1	165.5	31
<b>Class III: Likely not provided due to agricultural activities</b>	1.06	19.8	20.9	4
<b>Class IIIx: Likely not provided due to weeds</b>	6.35	-	6.35	1
<b>Total</b>	132.20	397.4	529.65	100

- 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 (i.e., shade, bank stability, filtration of overland flow).

**Livestock Operations:**

- 2016: Ten livestock operations were identified likely to pollute perennial streams.
- By June 30, 2022, reduce the number to 50%, through voluntary efforts.
- By June 30, 2037, reduce the number to 0%, through voluntary efforts.

**Actions/Implementation Summary:**

**Outreach and Education:**

<b>Gilliam SWCD</b>	<b>Sherman County SWCD</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Outreach: Quarterly Newsletter, informational booth at Gilliam County Fair.</li> <li>• Student Education: 5 in-school presentations with stream demonstration table, Plant identification field trip to Cottonwood Canyon State Park, 12 presentations at Tri-County Outdoor School.</li> <li>• Project Tours: Rock Creek, Lonerock Creek, Thirtymile Creek, and Hay Canyon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly Newsletters</li> <li>• 1,500 Sherman County Residents and Landowner Contacts</li> <li>• 18 producer events</li> <li>• 6 other public information activities/events</li> <li>• 13 education events with K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, including Outdoor School, 4-H Camp, STEP</li> <li>• Annual Fair Display</li> <li>• Annual Meeting</li> </ul>

**Planning and Projects:**

<b>Gilliam SWCD</b>	<b>Sherman County SWCD</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting, Planning, and Implementing CREP Program – 22 landowners, 30 miles of stream, 715 acres</li> <li>• Design, Apply for Large Grant Funding for Olex Diversion, Harper Diversion, and Hewes Diversion</li> <li>• Design and Apply for Large Grant Funding for Scott and Hay Canyon Wildfire Restoration Weed Control and Reseeding</li> <li>• NACD Farm Bill Support</li> <li>• OWRD Placed Based Planning</li> <li>• Thirtymile and Ferry Canyon Weed Treatments</li> <li>• Rock Creek Summer Streamflow (Focus Area)</li> <li>• CBASS</li> <li>• RCPP Stakeholder</li> <li>• Ferry Canyon Fire Restoration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 OWEB small grants               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 4 spring developments, 3 WASCB, 3,185 feet pasture cross fence, 27,180 feet terrace</li> </ul> </li> <li>• OWEB Large grants               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 18,168 feet terrace, 14 WASCB's, 2,218 acres direct seed, 9,370 acres surveyed for noxious weeds (private property), and 23 acres noxious weed treatment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CCS               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 12 haul roads for erosion control</li> <li>◦ 61,130 feet terrace</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Monitoring:**

Gilliam SWCD	Sherman County SWCD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thirtymile Creek Steelhead Monitoring</li> <li>• ODA Temperature Monitoring</li> <li>• CREP Monitoring (OWEB)</li> <li>• Lonerock Longterm Monitoring</li> <li>• Rock Creek Summer Streamflow</li> <li>• Two-year monitoring of all project sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-year project monitoring</li> <li>• OWEB – 216-8100 CREP TA - \$39,083</li> <li>• OWEB – 218-6003 Lower GV Canyon Upland Restoration - \$9,668 (to date)</li> <li>• OWEB – 215-6039 Holmes Upland Erosion Control - \$11,253</li> <li>• OWEB – 217-6064 Lower GV Weed Mngt - \$40,460</li> <li>• OWEB Small Grant – Lower John Day - \$36,704</li> <li>• Sherman Co. SWCD – County Cost Share - \$39,393</li> </ul>

**Summary of Impediments:**

- Staff turnover with the LMAs has reduced the amount of ag water quality projects being implemented in the Management Area.
- Lack of personnel to continue farming.
- The LAC feels that a lot of great work has been done to reduce soil erosion from crop fields from where farming practices were 30 years ago.

**Recommendations for Modifications:** Area Plan was updated to include Focus Area, DEQ monitoring trend and status report, and the proposed measurable objectives, timelines and milestones.

**DEQ Recommendations:**

- DEQ requested more quantitative methods to evaluate riparian vegetation that more clearly link to the load allocation/shade curve.
- Measurable Objectives are necessary in order to make and track progress,

**Compliance:**

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

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

**Notes:**