



**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: North & Middle Forks John Day River | | | |
| Meeting Date(s): March 12, 2019 | | | |
| LAC Members Present: Gary Adams, John Zakrjsek, Rick Henslee, Sharon Livingston, and Jim Bahrenberg | | | |
| Progress Measurement – Measurable Objectives: There are 2 focus areas (FA). Monument SWCD FA: Cottonwood Creek. The Streamside Vegetation Assessment method utilized within Cottonwood Creek FA in 2015-2017 did not yield any change due to a relatively high percentage of lands in good condition classes (not likely impacted by agriculture) and lack of landowner interest in riparian restoration projects. Much of Cottonwood Creek has been fenced through programs such as the CREP and ODFW’s habitat program. Monument SWCD has developed and is now using the Water Quality Land Condition Assessment method to provide more meaningful results of projects implemented and agricultural lands from ridgetop to streambanks. | | | |
| Class | Class Description | 2017: Pre-Assessment | 2019: Finalized Pre-Assessment |
| I | Land conditions and agricultural uses that are protective of water quality. | 12,190 acres | |
| II | Land conditions that may impact water quality due to vegetation cover/composition or agricultural use concerns. | 33,665 acres | |
| III | Land conditions likely to impact water quality due to vegetation cover/compositions or agricultural land use concerns. | 27,266 acres | |
| Grant SWCD FA: Fox Creek (upstream of Cottonwood) Opened July 2018 and is using a Streamside Biomass Assessment, which uses LiDAR to assess a 35-foot width on either side of streambanks. Milestone: By June 30, 2019, complete the pre-assessment and develop a milestone and measurable objective. | | | |
| Actions/Implementation Summary: Outreach and Education: Partners, including the Monument SWCD, Grant SWCD, and North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC) provide technical assistance to landowners and provide updates on resource concerns related to water quality issues at their monthly board meetings. Additionally, the Monument SWCD hosted landowner education seminars in January 2017 (40 attendees) and January 2018 (57 attendees). The Monument SWCD distributed a newsletter to over 400 recipients in February 2017. NFJDWC educated: 12 youth on wet meadow and riparian ecosystem function and 4 youth on watershed function and common invasive plants. Planning and Projects: Planning and project implementation over the past two years includes 20 off channel water developments, 33 miles of riparian exclusion fencing, planted 25 acres of riparian vegetation, 3 fish passage barrier culverts replaced including riparian plantings, designing low maintenance sediment capture structures, 40 acres of wet meadow restored and protected, continued work on 9.7 acres of wetland habitat enhancement, restored floodplain connectivity along 1.3 miles of streams, 766 acres of noxious weed control, and began work on an irrigation point of diversion transfer that will eliminate annual riparian disturbance. Monitoring: Project partners conduct regular post implementation monitoring of projects to evaluate long-term success and lessons learned. Additionally, the NFJDWC conducted 9.7 miles of hydrologic and geomorphic assessment of the lower Middle Fork John Day River on both public and privately-owned reaches; Grant SWCD monitored 10,200 acres of noxious weeds and assessed riparian vegetation biomass with LIDAR on Fox Creek; and Monument SWCD initiated a stream temperature and flow monitoring on Cottonwood Creek. Funding and Grants: Project partners secured grant funds to conduct planning, implementation, monitoring, and outreach and education efforts through funders such as the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, US Fish & Wildlife Service, USFS Title II program, ODA-Oregon State Weed Board, and other NGO funders. | | | |
| Summary of Impediments: | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough funds for monitoring • Additional outreach could benefit a wider public awareness of the AgWQ Program • New landowners that purchase property in this area aren’t always familiar with ranching and/or the local ecosystem | | | |
| Recommendations for Modifications: | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional monitoring stations; include location upstream of Kimberly on the mainstem on the mouth of the North Fork • Create a 3-4 page summary of the NMF Area Plan | | | |
| DEQ Recommendations: | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LAC develops measurable objectives. | | | |
| Compliance: | <i>Letter of Compliance -1</i> | <i>Water Quality Advisory -0</i> | <i>Letter of Warning -1</i> |
| | <i>Notice of Noncompliance -0</i> | <i>Civil Penalty -0</i> | <i>Alternative Measures -0</i> |
| Total Complaints/Notifications: 1 | | | |
| Notes: | | | |