

# SOUTHERN WILLAMETTE

## 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:** May 8, 2024

**LAC Members Present:** Alan Petersen, Garry Rodakowski, Jim Sly, and Steve Houston

**Reporting Timeframe:** Calendar years 2020-2023

### PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

#### Strategic Implementation Area (SIA): Camp Creek SIA (2017)

ODA Measurable Objective:

By January 18, 2022, all 8 tax lots identified as a Potential Violation or a Compliance Opportunity will be downgraded to Restoration Opportunity or Likely in Compliance.

Current Conditions:

The compliance phase of the SIA is closed and monitoring continues. ODA and partners did not meet their measurable objective.

Progress Toward Measurable Objective:

As of January 18, 2022, 7 tax lots identified as a Potential Violation or a Compliance Opportunity were downgraded to Restoration Opportunity or Likely in Compliance. PV = 1, CO = 0, RO = 28, LC = 216. The measurable objective was not achieved. The SWCD remains in contact with the landowner to make changes and that tax lot remains a Potential Violation.

SIA Activity	Accomplishment	Description
<b>ODA</b>		
# acres evaluated	3,679	
# stream miles evaluated	30	
# landowners at Open House	35	
# landowners receiving outreach materials	191	
<b>SWCD and Conservation Partners</b>		
# landowners provided with technical assistance	15	
# site visits	4	
# conservation plans written	0	
<b>SIA and Project Funding</b>		
# funding applications submitted	0	
<b>Management Area-wide Activities</b> (Willamette SWCD, McKenzie River Watershed Council)		
	#	Discussion
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	40	Annual meetings, native plant sales, educational workshops, district open houses.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	3,156	Most participants in events in the Siletz basin.
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	600	
Site Visits	250	
Conservation Plans Written	60	
Funding Applications Submitted	14	
Funding Applications Awarded	12	

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

### LAC DISCUSSION

#### Summary of Progress

• A lot of work has been done to establish contacts with local landowners who are willing to work with conservation partners. These relationships beget further relationships. The most effective communication strategy in this area seems to be via email.

- Funding from Pure Water Partners has been used for recovery in fire affected areas. The Fresh Water Trust began a shade credit program in 2020 for landowners in the area.

### **Impediments**

- Progress has been impeded by an historic lack of funding, especially for implementation of projects. There is already a lot of competition for funding that exists, and agricultural projects can seem less appealing or urgent to grant review boards versus whole watershed restoration projects by larger applicants. There is a need for more grant funding specifically for ag management practices that will not be competed against by larger restoration projects or larger nongovernmental organizations.
- The \$15K OWEB small grants are not enough for any one project to be planned and completed. Working with federal programs means working with federal agencies which is a barrier for some landowners wanting to work with them. Working with federal agencies can be seen as intimidating, slow, requiring a lot of paperwork, and including a lot of difficult-to-understand “jargon” by some ag producers.
- Funding types that do exist can tend to be narrow or so specific in focus, that landowners have difficulty understanding their eligibility. These funding sources can also tend to require upfront costs, which are later reimbursed. This can mean that landowners have to apply for additional loans or funding sources just to begin ostensibly “funded” work.”

### **Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management**

- The LAC recommends that state agencies work together to determine how the gap in funding sources for ag practices can be bridged. Suggestions include providing technical assistance with filling out grants, understanding grant conditions, and helping navigate assistance programs.
- The LAC also suggests an email distribution list to contact landowners and inform them of events and resources, indicating the subject in the email heading.

### **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	2	3	12	1	1	6	1	0
Within SIA	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0