



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

<b>Management Area:</b> Yamhill	
<b>Meeting Date:</b> December 6, 2017	
<b>LAC Members Present:</b> Sam Sweeney, Allan Elliot, Tom Thomson, Bruce Ruddenklau, Steve Jones, Ernie Strahm, Lucien Gunderman, and Matt Crawford	
<b>Yamhill Basin Management Area's Cumulative Reporting of Activities and Accomplishments</b> <i>This table is combined accomplishments by Polk and Yamhill SWCDs (Focus Area Accomplishments – Included Below)</i>	
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Applied Conservation Practices and Units</b>
Community and Landowner Engagement Events and Activities: <b>19</b>	Irrigation Efficiency Upgrade: <b>7 acres</b>
Total Attendees to all Events and Activities: <b>2,800</b>	Composting Facility: <b>30 yd<sup>3</sup></b>
Fact sheets and Brochures Developed/Distributed: <b>21/570</b>	Heavy Use Area: <b>1,575 ft<sup>2</sup></b>
Landowners Provided with Technical Assistance: <b>381</b>	Waste Storage Facility: <b>93 yd<sup>3</sup></b>
On-Site Evaluations: <b>211</b>	Brush Management: <b>22.4 acres</b>
Fund Applications for Landowner Projects: <b>20</b>	Tree and Shrub Establishment: <b>1 acre</b>
Voluntary Conservation Plans: <b>13</b>	Riparian Forest Buffer: <b>1.13 acres</b>
Total Acres in Conservation Plans: <b>192.2</b>	Riparian Forest Buffer: <b>33 acres</b>
<b>Puddy Gulch/ Hutchcroft Creek Focus Area (Opened 2013 – Closed 2017: Yamhill SWCD)</b>	
<b>Milestone:</b> Decrease Bare-Ag and Grass-Ag from 59.14 acres to 55 acres (4.15 acres [7%] reduction) along streams in the Puddy Gulch and Hutchcroft Creek sub-watersheds by June 30, 2017. Milestone was not achieved. However, progress was accomplished on 0.3 acres where grass was planted to shrubs.	
<b>Puddy Gulch/ Hutchcroft Creek Focus Area Activity Accomplishments 2013-2017</b>	
Landowners Contacted (mailings): <b>304</b>	On-Site Evaluations: <b>34</b>
Workshops/ Presentations/ Tours: <b>9</b>	Fund Applications for Landowner Projects: <b>2</b>
Total Attendees to Workshops and Presentations: <b>160</b>	Voluntary Conservation Plans: <b>1</b>
Fact sheets and Brochures Distributed: <b>406</b>	Total Acres in Voluntary Conservation Plans: <b>40</b>
Landowners Provided with Technical Assistance: <b>10</b>	
<b>Puddy Gulch/ Hutchcroft Creek Focus Area Applied Conservation Practices and Units</b>	
Riparian Forest Buffer: <b>0.31 acre</b>	Upland Seeding: <b>15 acres</b>
<b>Palmer Creek Focus Area (Opened 2017 – Yamhill SWCD)</b>	
<b>Milestone:</b> Decrease Bare, Bare-Ag, Grass, and Grass-Ag acreage from 122.26 acres to 114.52 acres along streams in the Palmer Creek watershed (7.74 acres [2%] reduction) by June 30, 2019. After closing the Puddy Gulch-Hutchcroft Focus Area, Yamhill SWCD opened up the Palmer Creek Focus Area in April of 2017. A Focus Area Action Plan for Palmer Creek has been submitted and approved by ODA. The pre-assessment has been completed, a timeline has been established for implementation, and a milestone has been set. The post assessment will be completed in June of 2019 and will be reported with the outputs at the next biennial review of the Area Plan in 2019.	
<b>Lower Salt Creek Focus Area (Opened 2017 – Polk SWCD)</b>	
The Lower Salt Creek Focus Area was opened in 2017; an Action Plan has been submitted and approved by ODA. The pre-assessment is to be completed; a timeline has been established, and a milestone will be determined. The pre-and post-assessment will be completed by June of 2019. Results and outputs will be reported at the next biennial review of the Area Plan in 2019.	
<b>Other Partner Accomplishments</b>	
<b>The NRCS Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - Yamhill Management Area for 2015-17</b> CREP completed 105 CREP eligibility site visits, 17 CREP contracts encompassing 135 acres/7.9 stream miles. 60 practices implemented. Includes the Upper North Yamhill River SIA Grant Award and enhanced CREP of 33 acres planted in 2017.	
<b>Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District - No-Till Drill Rental Program</b> Purchased a 2016 Land Pride 606 No-Till Compact Drill available to rent. Program to assist farmers in reducing tillage and soil disturbance to increase water infiltration, improve nutrient cycling, retain more organic matter, and reduce soil erosion.	
<b>Polk Soil and Water Conservation District - Salt Creek Watershed Collaborative</b> In 2017, the Polk SWCD assembled the Salt Creek Watershed Collaborative (SCWC). Actions detailed in the plan will: (a) increase landowner knowledge of issues to make informed decisions on long-term, adaptable solutions that will foster resilient, productive, and sustainable agriculture; and (b) secure financial, technical and human resources necessary to reduce flood impacts while ensuring good water quality and a healthy river system.	
<b>Pesticide Stewardship Partnership</b> In November 2016, the PSP program funded/organized an agricultural/commercial pesticide waste collection event in McMinnville. 47,784 lbs. of waste collected from 48 participants. This collection event yielded the most pesticides of all the 2016 events.	
<b>Summary of Impediments:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LAC stresses importance of outreach to ag community; would like more effort engaging grape growers, hazelnut producers, Christmas tree farmers, livestock owners, and small family farmers to implement farming practices that protect water quality and soil erosion. The lack of knowledge and understanding of Area Rules and their responsibility toward clean water are widespread and a barrier to progress.</li> <li>A few grass seed growers still manage streams like ditches; more outreach on practices for stream and ditch maintenance. Members of the LAC felt that it is still unclear as to what is an exempt ditch versus a non-exempt ditch. There have been public complaints against growers maintaining drainage in their ditches and would like to see a way for this public confusion to end.</li> </ul>	

**Recommendations for Modifications:**

- More effort to partner with ODOT to improve ditch and road maintenance in agricultural lands.
- Encourage the LMA and partners to get the different certification program information to growers.
- More funding and assistance programs to help the agricultural community to learn about farming practices that could support their farming while managing for clean water as well as opportunities for improved farming skills.
- More public outreach to showcase farmers who manage their lands to protect water quality. Improve the public negative opinion of farming and poor water quality.
- Recommends that water quality monitoring be more robust; collect more applicable data made available to better understand the status and trends of water quality in the Yamhill.

**DEQ Recommendations:** DEQ reviewed the Area Plan and did not have any recommendations. Water quality status and trends for the Yamhill is located in Chapter 4, Section 4.4.1 Table 13 in the 2017 Yamhill Area Plan.

**Compliance: Total Complaints/Notifications:** January 2015 – December 2017 - Does not include SIAs.

*Letter of Compliance - 10      Water Quality Advisory – 6      Letter of Warning - 1*

*Notice of Noncompliance - 0      Civil Penalty – 0      Fix-It - 3*

**Lower North Yamhill River Strategic Implementation Area Summary**

<b>Summary of Investigated Cases</b>			
<b>Concern Level</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Open to Date (10/17)</b>
Moderate	18	13	5
Significant	3	3	0
Serious	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>

**Lower Salt Creek Strategic Implementation Area Summary**

<b>Concern Level</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Open to Date (10/17)</b>
Moderate	18	13	5
Significant	6	2	4
Serious	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>