Lost River
Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture & ODA Director

Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Meeting Date(s): March 15, 2022
LAC Members Present: Bill Kennedy (Co-Chair), Glenn Barrett (Co-Chair), Bob Gasser, Frank Hammerich, Mark Johnson, Luther Horsley, Mark Buettner, Tracey Liskey, John Vradenburg
Reporting Time Frame: 2018-2021

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

Management Area: No MOs in this MA at this time.

Focus Area: Upper Lost River

Current Conditions, Measurable Objectives, & Milestones:

Assessment Results: number (% of total)					
	2019	**2021**	**2023**	**Milestone (2023)**	**Measurable Objective (2027)**
Trees + Shrubs + Grass acres	61 (17)	64 (18)	TBD	101 (28)	148 (41)
Wild flood irrigation acres	18,798 (48)	18,798 (48)	TBD	18,498 (47)	18,398 (46.7)
Fenced stream miles	8 (22)	9 (25)	TBD	13 (36)	18 (50)
Livestock water facilities	44 59)	45 (60)	TBD	49 (65)	55 (73)

Activities and Accomplishments:

Community and Landowner Engagement	
# events that actively engage landowners	1
# landowners participating in active events	12
Technical Assistance (TA)	
# landowners provided with TA	60
# site visits	22
# conservation plans written	Projects were completed, but didn't meet ODA's definition of a conservation plan
Ag Water Quality Practices Implemented in the Focus Area	
Juniper removal (acres)	2,240
Livestock wells (nose pump)	2
Fencing (feet)	5,050
Ditch piping (feet)	1,620
Adaptive Management Discussion	
Currently planned projects (NRCS): Wild flood to improved flood (gated pipe), livestock wells (3), plantings, juniper removal (600 acres), riparian fencing (12,650 feet). These projects are in planning with funding set aside through National Water Quality Initiative and will be mostly completed in 2022.	

Strategic Implementation Area (SIA): No SIA in this MA at this time.

Management Areawide Activities	**No.**	**Discussion**
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	1	Covid restrictions reduced outreach during this time period
Landowners Participating in Active Events	12	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance	60	
Site Visits	22	
Conservation Plans Written	-	Projects were completed, but didn't meet ODA's definition of a conservation plan
Funding Applications Submitted	8	Fencing
Funding Applications Awarded	7	Fencing

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

- *Klamath Drainage District is working to deliver water to the refuge and their neighbors to keep their operations going*
- *Irrigation districts are working to return no or cleaner water to rivers*
- *Progress is being made towards improving riparian condition through fencing, off-stream water, stock water wells, and other projects; the number of projects has been increasing over time*
- *The local community is increasingly aware of the fragility of our ecosystem*
- *Landowners are sharing knowledge and ways to move forward, while understanding they don't have to improve background levels of pollutants*
- *Farmer ingenuity is creating an understanding and focus on addressing challenges*
- *Active forest management in the upper watershed is contributing to more water and better water quality*

Impediments

- *No comprehensive inventory of implemented practices*
- *Practices implemented solely by landowners are not tracked anywhere and other tracking methods are not integrated*
- *Insufficient water quality data to determine what the AgWQ issues are and where*
- *Different perspectives on what practices to recommend and potential unintended consequences*
- *Ag community is fractured; farmers have a difficult time working together. They are not unified in moving their community forward*
- *Still tension between landowners and agencies*
- *Lack of water in the system for establishing riparian vegetation*
- *Bureau of Reclamation Interim Operating Plan is unrealistic*
- *Uncertainty of water supply distracts from more holistic view of watershed*
- *Landowners need to be prosperous to implement practices*
- *No water budget for the Management Area*
- *No nutrient budget for the Management Area*
- *Lost River TMDL requires increased flows for addressing temperature but is contrary to natural conditions and the ability of the Lost River to meet temperature TMDLs*
- *Detrimental effects of climate change on water quantity and quality*
- *No delineation of the agricultural contributions (sources and geographic areas) to water quality impairment in the Management Area*
- *No documentation of enhancements to water quality by agricultural activities*
- *Don't know whether implemented practices have been effective in addressing water quality concerns*
- *More and more landowners are becoming absentee and are less engaged in the management of their operations*

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- *Look at ways that LAC can engage when issues come up with zoning or new proposed projects; ODA doesn't always provide comments that the LAC agree with*
- *Acknowledge past achievements*
- *Take climate change into account when developing water quality goals*
- *Determine relative contributions of different types of ag, e.g., livestock manure, irrigation runoff*
- *Nutrient budget for the Management Area*
- *Water budget for the Management Area*

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Within SIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-