

Powder Brownlee 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 10, 2021
LAC Members Present: Curtis Martin, Co-Chair, Tim L. Kerns, Co-Chair, Tim A. Kerns, Myron Miles
Reporting Time Frame: 2018-2020 Meeting was scheduled for March of 2020, COVID pandemic cancelled meeting.

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT		
<i>This was a Light Review; quantitative details related to Measurable Objectives are not reported at Light Reviews.</i>		
Activities	No.	Discussion
Active Events	1	EOU Water Quality Presentation
Landowners Participating in Active Events	10	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance	125	
Site Visits	44	
Conservation Plans Written	10	
Funding Applications Submitted	15	Spring Developments, Watering Facility, Riparian Habitat, Irrigation Pipelines
Funding Applications Awarded	10	Spring Developments, Watering Facility, Riparian Habitat, Irrigation Pipelines

LAC DISCUSSION (focused on water quality data)
Progress
Ellen Hammond presented detailed reporting and summaries for six parameters (<i>E.coli</i> , phosphorous, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and bugs). Phosphorus levels have declined statistically over the last 20 years; however, levels are still high. The LAC was interested in the monitoring data and encouraged further monitoring, which is expected for the upcoming TMDLs (<i>E. coli</i> , pH, dissolved oxygen, and phosphorus), the Lower Powder SIA and as part of the Powder Basin Watershed Council program.
Impediments
The main water quality impacts from agriculture in our management area include <i>E.coli</i> levels during the irrigation season, phosphorous levels between Baker City and Keating, and temperature throughout the watershed. Curtis Martin was concerned about the lack of flow data to help calculate pollutant loads and understand the implications of pollutant concentrations.

RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT
There were three recommendations for monitoring: 1) collecting flow data at the monitoring sites, and 2) monitoring in off-months at DEQ's ambient sites (Baker City and Keating), and 3) adding phosphorous monitoring sites between the two DEQ Ambient Sites (Baker City and Keating). In addition, Myron Miles and Whitney Collins stated that eliminating runoff into streams, especially in the spring, will be important; off channel watering systems, riparian protection, piping irrigation ditches, and irrigation efficiency projects like converting from flood to sprinkler will continue to take place in the watershed. Whitney Collins also reported that with the Lower Powder SIA grant, will be purchasing equipment in order to collect data for phosphorous and dissolved oxygen within the Lower Powder SIA and Keating Focus Area.

COMPLIANCE ACTIONS				
Location	Letter of Compliance	Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
Outside SIA(s)	0	0	0	0
Within SIA(s)	0	2	0	0