

**UPPER WILLAMETTE AND UPPER SIUSLAW
Agricultural Water Quality Management Area**
Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director
Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



Meeting Date: March 9, 2023
LAC Members Present: Jerry Marguth, Robin Pfeiffer (many LAC members did not respond to outreach, two stated that they no longer wish to serve on the committee)
Reporting Time Frame: Calendar years 2019-2022

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

Management Area

Measurable Objective: No measurable objective has been created for this Management Area. ODA is working with Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Local Advisory Committees throughout Oregon toward establishing long-term measurable objectives to achieve desired conditions. Currently, ODA and the Upper Willamette SWCD are using the Bear Creek SIA to show progress in this Management Area.

Focus Area

There is no active Focus Area within this Management Area.

Strategic Implementation Area (SIA): Bear Creek SIA

ODA Measurable Objective: As of November 30, 2025, all 36 tax lots identified as a Potential Violation or a Compliance Opportunity will be downgraded to Restoration Opportunity or Likely in Compliance.

Current Conditions: As of November 30, 2021, 36 tax lots were identified as either a Potential Violation or a Compliance Opportunity PV=5, CO=31, RO=74, LC=669

Management Areawide Activities (Upper Willamette SWCD, Long Tom Watershed)	#	Discussion
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	13	
Landowners Participating in Active Events	263	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	202	
Site Visits	60	
Conservation Plans Written	10	
Funding Applications Submitted	5	
Funding Applications Awarded	1	1 application funded, 1 application denied funding, 3 applications TBD

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

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

Outreach to landowners has increased in the past year after COVID. More vineyards are moving toward biodynamic practices and third-party certification. This will likely reduce the number of pesticides and Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) issues, especially if other agricultural industries follow suit.

Impediments

- SIA outreach and technical assistance (TA) funding is less effective due to lack of implementation funding; TA and outreach should organically lead to on-the-ground implementation which should be funded.
- The LAC and GWMA committees are having recruiting/retention issues.
- A variety of variables and long-term legacy issues are contributing to the GWMA affecting nitrates: it seems to the LAC and public that there is no clear fix. The LAC needs information and a plan.
- Landowners don't want to work with the SWCD because they don't realize they help with voluntary implementation and are not a regulatory agency.
- Small entities, such as irrigation districts, don't have the capacity to deal with government mandates and regulations, such as TMDLs, being passed down by larger agencies.
- Younger and newer farmers aren't familiar with traditional conservation partners such as ODA, SWCDs, etc.
- Younger and newer farmers get most of their information from cell phones/social media so there is less incentive to come to grower meetings and other events hosted for outreach.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- LAC members recruit more members.
- Advertise outreach events through grower groups, e.g. hazelnuts, grass seed, etc.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
	New	Closed		Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
				Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	4	4	15	3	2	4	1	2
Within SIA	4	0	2	0	0	2	0	0