



**NRD WATER QUALITY PROGRAM
AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA
BIENNIAL REVIEW SUMMARY**



Management Area: Lower Deschutes

Meeting Date(s): December 2, 2014

LAC Members Present: Ken Bailey (Chair), Neil Harth (Co-Chair), Dick Lindley, Tom McCoy, Bill Hammel, Glenn Miller

Implementation Summary (Jan 2013 through November 2014)

Mill Creek SIA: Wasco SWCD interacted with 7 landowners as a result of the SIA approach (1 serious, 1 significant, 3 moderate, and 2 low priority concerns)

Outreach and Education:

- Sherman County:
 - 8 Quarterly Newsletters
 - 1,500 landowner contacts
 - 4 after-hours sessions
 - Monthly presentations to 120 K-5th graders, with a focus on soil
- Wasco County:
 - Published the fact that 96% of the acreage in Wasco County has been converted to direct seed
 - 3 hands-on environment education projects, a greenhouse for Dufur School, 12 newsletters, 23 newspaper articles, and 24 radio talk shows, along with 57 other public information activities
 - Over 1,400 landowner contacts

Planning and Projects:

- Sherman County:
 - 4 spring developments
 - 1 wildlife solar development
 - 9,508 acres converted to direct seed (19 landowners)
 - 32 water and sediment control basins
 - 651 feet of grassed waterway
 - 37,825 feet of terrace – mostly reshaping
 - Pending: 2,368 feet of new terrace, 9,422 feet reshaping terrace, 15 water and sediment control basins
- Wasco County:
 - District Cost Share Program funded: Conversion of 611 acres to no-till, 1 sediment dam/stock water pond, 2 conservation tree and shrub planting projects, 5 irrigation system upgrades, 1 fire erosion control project, 1 streambank stabilization project on Fivemile Creek, 2 precision agriculture projects (including GPS, auto steer, and auto boom control), 2 juniper control projects to improve range vegetation and reduce erosion, and livestock water developments (1 spring, 2 well, 1 fence, pipeline, and multiple troughs)
 - OWEB Small Grant Program funded one Water and Sediment Control Basin and one upland forage and wildlife habitat project, 3 Integrated Pest Management projects, 1 off channel watering trough, and 1 irrigation system efficiency upgrade
 - 14 new CREP plans were completed on 512.3 acres; 3 CREP renewals were completed on 286.3 acres
 - 86 conservation plans, both new and revisions, were done
 - Over 200 conservation practices benefitting water quality were completed

Monitoring:

- Wasco County: approximately 200 water samples collected for *E. coli* analysis
- Wasco SWCD and watershed councils worked with DEQ to monitor pesticide levels in Mill Creek and Fifteenmile Creek through the “Pesticide Stewardship Partnership”

Funding and Grants:

- Projects funded by landowners and grants from federal and state agencies, and tax bases in both counties

Progress Measurement:

- Increase in CREP in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed from 0 miles in 1998 to 121 out of 160 targeted miles in 2011
- 96% of the cropland in Wasco County has been converted to no-till

Summary of Impediments:

- Lack of funding to hire staff, do projects, set baseline conditions, and monitor progress
- Slow response by agencies, e.g. Army Corps of Engineers, SHPO, to review applications and issue permits
- NRCS no longer doing on-site cultural surveys for CREP projects

Recommendations for Modifications:

- ODA should continue to publicize the good things agricultural community is doing in respect to AgWQ
- ODA should initiate more Strategic Implementation Areas in the Lower Deschutes
- ODA should increase communication with their field staff and local SWCD regarding activities related to the local Strategic Implementation Area
- Lower John Day LAC should adopt the same Management Area-wide assessments being used in the Lower Deschutes

ODA Enforcement Activities:

- **Within entire Management Area**

Letter of Compliance -1

Notice of Noncompliance -0

Total New Investigations: 1

Water Quality Advisory -0

Civil Penalty -0

Letter of Warning -0

Alternative Measures -0

- **As a result of the Mill Creek SIA**

Letter of Compliance -1

Notice of Noncompliance -0

Total Actions: 1

Water Quality Advisory -0

Civil Penalty -0

Letter of Warning -0

Alternative Measures -0

Notes: Only investigation was as a result of the SIA