



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

Management Area: Upper Deschutes

Meeting Date(s): March 14, 2016

LAC Members Present: Marc Thalacker (Chair), Rex Barber (Vice-Chair), Dan Sherwin, Bill Grafton, Terry Penhollow, Todd Cleveland

Progress Measurement: The SWCD has been focusing work in southern Deschutes County.

Results of riparian vegetation assessments along 65.5 miles of the Little Deschutes River			
Class	Description	Miles in each class	
		2013	2015
I	Vegetation likely sufficient to moderate solar heating, stabilize streambanks, and filter out pollutants consistent with site capability.	10.45	10.45
II	Agricultural activities not impairing riparian growth, but vegetation likely insufficient to moderate solar heating, stabilize streambanks, or filter out pollutants consistent with site capability.	3.1	3.1
III	Agricultural activities likely not allowing vegetation to moderate solar heating, stabilize streambanks, or filter out pollutants consistent with site capability.	1.05	1.05
IV	Non-agricultural	50.9	50.9
	NOT YET ASSESSED	16	16

Results of assessment of the likelihood of manure contamination of ground or surface water in the La Pine Resource Conservation Area. The assessment methodology included evidence of livestock activity and depth to groundwater.

	# of acres (%)	
	2014	2019
# Acres with livestock	5342	
# Livestock (estimated)	800+	
Category 1: unlikely pollution	2446 (46%)	
Category 2: possible pollution	2426 (45%)	

Progress was not made in improving streamside and manure conditions in spite of multiple outreach efforts to landowners.

Implementation Summary

Outreach and Education:

- Distributed 350 Rural Living Handbooks
- Developed display board to utilize project activity, manure composting, streamside vegetation management strategies
- Booth at Living on a Few Acres landowner workshop in 2015 and 2016
- Held 5 workshops with OSU Extension on pasture management and irrigation
- Held 2 workshops on irrigation efficiency
- Developed website and email contact list - sending out 540 emails
- Developed contact list of landowners bordering 45 miles of the Little Deschutes River
- Sent information to landowners eligible for CREP along the Little Deschutes River (no responses)
- Held composting class near La Pine
- Wrote and submitted a grant for composting manure – rejected by the reviewers because they were not convinced that landowners in the La Pine area would make use of it
- Three classroom discussions at La Pine Middle and High Schools on water quality

Planning and Projects:

- Juniper clearing on 550 acres adjacent to the Crooked River
- Planned and funded fencing off 1,000 feet of Little Deschutes River from livestock damage
- Developed grazing plan that was implemented on 46 acres
- Coordinated a fire fuels reduction project on 80 acres

Monitoring:

- Only monitoring conducted by SWCD was of landscape conditions in Focus Area

Funding and Grants:

- Leveraged funding from OWEB, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and other sources

Summary of Impediments:

- Lack of landowner cooperation to make voluntary changes
- Lack of funding for on-farm irrigation water management from the State of Oregon
- New landowners don't know how to manage farms; small acreages turn over every 3-5 years on average
- Lack of landowner knowledge of AgWQ Plan
- Absentee landowners
- Rental properties
- Concern about Endangered Species Act implementation through litigation unravels local cooperative conservation processes
- SWCD can't get funding from OWEB for properties within the Deschutes Focused Investment Partnership

Recommendations for Modifications:

- Pursue funding to help fund SWCD projects and staff
- Increase financial incentives for landowners to participate
- SWCD should focus efforts where they can make the most difference (biggest bang for the buck)
- OWEB should allow exceptions for funding in a Focused Investment Partnership
- Develop outreach targeted towards smartphone users

Compliance:

<i>Letter of Compliance - 1</i>	<i>Water Quality Advisory - 1</i>	<i>Letter of Warning - 1</i>
<i>Notice of Noncompliance - 0</i>	<i>Civil Penalty - 0</i>	<i>Alternative Measures - 0</i>
<i>Total New Investigations: 3</i>		

Notes:

Investigations were related to carcasses and butcher waste; chickens along an irrigation ditch; and piling of manure along a property line.