



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

<b>Management Area: Greater Harney Basin</b>
<b>Meeting Date(s):</b> March 14, 2016 and April 6, 2016
<b>LAC Members Present:</b> David Banks, Berry Anderson, Gary Defenbaugh, Ronald Whiting, Karen Moon (Vice-Chair), Jack Southworth (Chair), Steve Rickman
<b>Demonstration Area Progress Measurement:</b> The Silvies River Demonstration Area Action Plan has been developed to show progress in the Silvies River Watershed. Approximately 56 river miles have been assessed and evaluated with 97% of the riparian area in a maintaining or upward trend to date.
<p><b>Basin-wide Actions/Implementation Summary:</b></p> <p><i>Outreach and Education:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWCD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Developed and submitted one article to the Burns Times Herald.</li> <li>○ Held one meeting for CCAA outreach.</li> <li>○ Conducted outreach for the last two years at Harney County Fair booth.</li> <li>○ A direct calling outreach occurred within the demonstration area. We were able to make contact with eight landowners and have scheduled riparian surveys for 2016. (It is also noteworthy that because phone calls and visits were made as opposed to mass letters or a news statement, tense situations were able to be completely diffused and all questions were able to be addressed leaving the few resistant landowners open for further interaction in the future).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Watershed Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provided youth education focusing on rangeland management for the High Desert Youth Range Camp and Sagebrush Steppe Camp.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Planning and Projects:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWCD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sage grouse CCAA- Received signups from 58 landowners for Site Specific Plans (SSP) within Harney County. Provided technical assistance to 38 landowners, which included conducting threat assessments, site evaluations, etc.</li> <li>○ SAGECON- Participation in statewide planning efforts for ESA listing decision for Sage grouse.</li> <li>○ AGWQM- Participation in statewide coordination of program TA/Implementation efforts on 6+2 committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SWCD Rangeland health project(s)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted 4 rangeland health assessments.</li> <li>• Removal of 792.4 acres of western juniper.</li> <li>• Provided native &amp; introduced grass seed for re-seeding pile burn areas.</li> <li>• Installation of 21,077' of pasture cross fencing to promote livestock distribution.</li> <li>• Treatment of 5,000 acres of invasive species.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>SWCD Riparian and water quality improvement project(s)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of 9,056' of riparian pasture fence.</li> <li>• Install 13 off-stream watering facilities.</li> <li>• Installation of 4 spring developments with associated protective enclosures.</li> <li>• Watershed Council: Treating 640 acres of knapweed, perennial pepperweed, scotch thistle, and whitetop along Cottonwood Creek.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Watershed Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Letter of Interest submitted to OWRD to begin a groundwater initiative to address current and future water needs in the Harney Basin.</li> <li>○ Completed strategic planning to help prioritize projects within the seven subbasins that the council covers.</li> <li>○ Kimball Grazing Improvement: installed solar water pump, developed well and grazing management plan, installed cross fencing, and conducted weed treatments.</li> <li>○ Craft Point Juniper Burning: Improving mule deer habitat by cutting and piling 233 acres of juniper located in prime winter habitat.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Monitoring:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWCD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assess Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) (i.e. dimension, pattern, and profile) and riparian vegetation composition and stability rating. Conduct review, collect baseline range monitoring information, establish photos points, and develop measurable monitoring goals with Dr. Wayne Burkhardt; Steve Leonard; and Wayne Elmore on 8 miles of stream outside of the AQWQM Demonstration Area.</li> <li>○ In September 2015, Steve Leonard and Wayne Elmore conducted training for Edwin Sparks to perform riparian assessments for the AWQMP. Training was conducted on sites that were previously assessed in order to monitor any changes at these sites.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Upon completion of training, Edwin conducted surveys on 30 stream miles in the focus area. These surveys brought the total amount of stream miles assessed to 56 leaving an estimated 94 miles to be completed by October 2016.
- GIS assessments were completed to determine a preliminary non-ag figure from non-private lands in the Focus Area. Completion of assessment indicated approximately 157 miles of non-ag stream within the Focus Area.
- Watershed Council
  - Monitoring well water static levels in Dog Mountain, Crane-Buchanan, and Princeton over the next five years.

**Funding and Grants:**

- **The District was able to secure 20 grants totaling \$1,082,000 from OWEB and Federal sources.**
- USDA-NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) was also secured to implement conservation planning and implementation of conservation measures within the Silvies River Demonstration Area to improve both riparian and upland habitats.
- A \$5 million request for Focused Investment Partnership funds from OWEB has been requested by Malheur, Harney, and Lake SWCDs for technical assistance and implementation funds for CCAA plans.

**Summary of Impediments:**

At the current time, the LAC does not see any impediments.

**Recommendations for Modifications:**

The Area Plan was reformatted to include: new chapter format and Demonstration Area milestones and timelines.

**DEQ Recommendations:**

- Review DEQ input on specific potential agricultural sources of contamination of drinking water in the Plan area.
- Develop and include a Management Area-wide Measureable Objective in the Area Plan.
- Develop a more comprehensive monitoring strategy.

<b>Compliance:</b>	<i>Letter of Compliance -0</i>	<i>Water Quality Advisory -0</i>	<i>Letter of Warning -0</i>
	<i>Notice of Noncompliance -0</i>	<i>Civil Penalty -0</i>	<i>Alternative Measures -0</i>

**Total Complaints/Notifications: 0**

**Notes:**