



**Management Area: Hood River**

**Meeting Date(s): December 11, 2014**

**LAC Members Present:** Mike Oates, Roger Nelson, Leonard Aubert, Jean Godfrey, Davinne McKeown-Ellis, Jim Wells, John Buckley, Brian Nakamura, Steve Castagnoli, Chris Brun

**Progress Measurement:**

1. Focus Area baseline: Pre-assessment of riparian condition along 14.8 miles of Indian Creek and major tributaries in 2013 resulted in 34% in non-agricultural use. Of the remaining riparian area, 81% in Class I, 3% in Class II, and 16% in Class III.

Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
Vegetation likely sufficient to moderate solar heating, stabilize streambanks, and filter out pollutants consistent with site capability.	Agricultural activities not impairing riparian growth, but vegetation likely insufficient to moderate solar heating, stabilize streambanks, or filter out pollutants consistent with site capability.	Agricultural activities likely not allowing vegetation to moderate solar heating, stabilize streambanks, or filter out pollutants consistent with site capability.	Non-agricultural activities, e.g. roads, rural residential, forest land.

2. Pesticide Stewardship Partnership: Two OP pesticide exceedances in 2013 (one in 2012), slight upward trend after years of downward trend, continuation of detected herbicide and fungicide concentrations below water quality standards, sub-lethal effects thresholds, and acute toxicity standards.

3. Neal Creek: Final monitoring report showed three-year average turbidity dropped 72.4 to 11.1 NTU before and after installation of the East Fork Irrigation District Central Canal Pipeline and Mount Hood Forest Products settling ponds.

4. Converting 25,350 feet of open ditch to pipeline resulted in an estimated elimination of 2,800 tons per year of sediment entering area rivers.

**Implementation Summary: Hood River SWCD and Watershed Council**

***Outreach and Education:***

- Presentations: 2 to Board of Commissioners, 1 to Indian Creek Stewards
- Site visits with landowners: 4 on riparian issues, 12 on irrigation upgrades
- 1 radio presentation, display at 2 Hood River County fairs
- 1 horsekeeping workshop
- Newspaper articles: 1 on mud management, 1 on irrigation water management
- Annual reports with updates on ag WQ program sent to ≈1,200
- Quarterly eNews emails to ≈1,100 (35-40% open rate)
- Indian Creek Focus Area: contacted 6 landowners about improving buffers; only one was interested

***Planning and Projects:***

- Indian Creek Focus Area: Planted 370 feet of streambank with Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers
- Aspen Creek: 190 feet of roadside channel rerouted from road, planted 120 live stakes on both sides of creek
- Whiskey Creek wetland enhancement on 0.4 acres, planted 1,100 native trees and shrubs
- Neal Creek: four projects including riparian fencing, riparian plantings, hardened stream crossing, enhanced beaver pond
- Orchard waterways: planted 5,190 feet of riparian buffer, 10,600 plants sold or donated at plant sales
- Irrigation pipelines installed: 14, 350 feet replaced all or part of Farmers Irrigation District Lowline and Farmers canals, 11,000 feet replaced the Middle Fork Irrigation District Glacier Ditch, 23,760 feet replaced the Dee Irrigation District conveyance canal
- 1 new diversion for East Fork Irrigation District main canal
- On-farm irrigation upgrades on 134.6 acres, commitment to irrigation water management on additional 32.6 acres, implemented 11 irrigation upgrade proposals

***Monitoring:***

- Indian and Neal Creek Focus Areas: mapped existing vegetation, categorized riparian conditions
- Pesticide Stewardship Partnership: seasonal sampling/analysis of 100+ analytes
- Neal Creek: turbidity monitoring
- Temperature monitoring on Lower Hood River for Farmers Irrigation District study and on upper Middle Fork tributaries

**Funding and Grants:**

- Funds were received for eleven irrigation improvement projects on private land (OWEB small grants), DID pipeline (OWEB, CTWS, PCSR), flow meter monitoring study (OWEB), new EFID diversion (OWEB, CTWS), riparian plantings (CTWS), PSP (CTWS, DEQ), Whiskey Creek wetland enhancement (ODOT), and the Neal Creek Small Scale Restoration Initiative (CTWS)

**Summary of Impediments:**

- Hard to separate agricultural from non-agricultural water quality impacts, e.g. railroad or county application of herbicides.
- Insufficient funding for technical assistance and for projects, e.g. giant waiting list for OWEB Small Grant Program
- Insufficient funding for maintaining projects, e.g. fencing and plantings over time
- Insufficient funding to track progress
- Insufficient funding to monitor water quality to identify non-compliant areas
- Inability to convince 100% of landowners to make changes through voluntary methods
- Complaint-based system for getting compliance is not ideal as it is inefficient and pits neighbor against neighbor

**Recommendations for Modifications:**

- ODA implement a state-wide program to educate realtors on natural resource rules and regulations for landowners. The program would be tailored to issues in each Management Area and the realtors would receive a certification
- ODA should spend money effectively on its aerial photography interpretation. The point of these analyses is to compare the results at a site over time. The LAC was concerned that the only photos that have been analyzed were from 2004; the 2009 photos were never analyzed and 2014 has not yet been analyzed

**Enforcement:**      *Letter of Compliance -0*      *Water Quality Advisory -0*      *Letter of Warning -0*  
                                 *Notice of Noncompliance -0*      *Civil Penalty -0*      *Alternative Measures -0*

**Total Complaints: 0**

**Notes:** None