



**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:</b> Middle Willamette
<b>Meeting Date(s):</b> April 14, 2016
<b>LAC Members Present:</b> Eric Horning, Mike Calef, Larry Venell, Lowell Ford, Mark Taratoot and George Ice
<p><b>Focus Area Progress Measurement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Benton SWCD completed a pre-assessment of streamside vegetation conditions of the Jackson-Frazier Focus Area and implemented riparian restoration projects to improve water quality functions 3% of the assessment area</li> <li>▪ Polk SWCD completed a pre-assessment of streamside vegetation conditions of the Ash Creek Focus Area and implemented riparian restoration projects to improve water quality functions 1% of the assessment area</li> </ul>
<p><b>Actions and Implementation Summary for Benton and Polk SWCDs and local NRCS</b></p> <p><b>Community &amp; Landowner Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Held workshops, demonstrations, and tours – Over 40 instances reaching 1,690+ attendees</li> <li>▪ Provided a variety of media materials (such as rural living guides, newsletters, newspaper articles, fact sheets, brochures and displays) – Over 64 instances</li> </ul> <p><b>Land Stewardship &amp; Water Quality Projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provided technical assistance to over 1,514 individuals (such as site visits and conversations)</li> <li>▪ Implemented over 102 water quality projects (such as CREP, CSP, WHIP, EQUIP, CStP, WRP, riparian buffers, GWMA nutrient management practices and other best management practices covering livestock management, irrigation, and cropping practices)</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both SWCDs have completed pre-assessment work on Focus Areas</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding and Grants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ OWEB CREP planners grant – Benton SWCD and partners awarded \$145,080</li> <li>▪ ODA Fertilizer Grant for GWMA work was awarded to Benton SWCD and partners - \$51,464</li> <li>▪ Meyer Memorial Trust, OWEB, Oregon Weed Board Willamette River invasive species work; Benton SWCD awarded \$434,265</li> <li>▪ CIP funds for riparian plantings were provided by Benton SWCD - \$2,000</li> <li>▪ OWEB Small Grants for water quality related work - Polk SWCD awarded \$38,800 and Benton SWCD awarded \$24,000</li> <li>▪ ODF's mycorrhizae CREP Trial Study – Polk SWCD awarded \$23,598</li> </ul>
<p><b>Summary of Impediments:</b> ODA currently places more emphasis on riparian conditions; however, most compliance actions related to erosion in the uplands. An emphasis on best management practices to improve upland conditions is needed. Upland management practices also have impacts to water temperature that need to be fully acknowledged and accounted. Farmers already do many things to improve water quality. ODA and the LAC need to find better ways to highlight the preventive practices that farmers already employ and to effectively communicate that with stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations for Modifications:</b> Pay more attention to upland metrics that are integral to achieving water quality objectives. Consider development of measurable objectives for: The Southern Willamette Valley Ground Water Management Area specific to the Middle Willamette Management Area; Measure and document irrigation efficiencies farmers are already achieving; Explore Salmon Safe metrics that many vineyards in the Management Area already achieve; Identify measurable objectives for the focus areas.</p>
<p><b>DEQ Recommendations:</b> At the state level, DEQ considers the following as general priorities for agriculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Prevention and protection are as important to DEQ as restoration; Area Plans should include best management practices that protect waters of the state from all forms of contamination and should not be limited to TMDL parameters</i></li> <li>▪ <i>In most parts of the state, DEQ's highest priority for agricultural lands is to protect and re-establish riparian vegetation</i></li> <li>▪ <i>DEQ encourages each plan to include strategies to track environmental outcomes including upland and riparian conditions as well as water quality</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The Middle Willamette Area Plan does a good job of addressing these priorities. In the future, DEQ hopes to support ODA in developing a strategy to assess the entire management area and in the development of an evaluation strategy that will allow ODA to assess plan and rule effectiveness. Protecting and maintaining riparian vegetation is one of DEQ's top priorities for the Area Plan. Two other top priorities are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>The prevention of pollution from pesticides and other toxic chemicals; and</i></li> <li>2) <i>Improving irrigation water use</i></li> </ol> <p>Based on DEQ's review of the Middle Willamette Area Plan, these appear to be top priorities for ODA and LAC as well. Chapter 4 indicates over the next biennium agencies and stakeholders will explore measurable objectives and metrics for the LAC to consider in 2018.</p>
<p><b>Compliance:</b> Total # Cases Opened: 30; Total # Inspections: 35; Letter of Compliance - 3; Water Quality Advisory – 6; Letter of Warning – 2; Notice of Noncompliance – 0; Civil Penalty – 0; Alternative Measures – 0; Total Complaints/Notifications: 28; ODA Initiated: 2; Fix It: 9 and In Field Determination: 1</p>