

**GOOSE AND SUMMER LAKES BASIN**  
**Agricultural Water Quality Management Area**  
**Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture & ODA Director**  
*Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)*



<b>Meeting Date:</b> November 8, 2023
<b>LAC Members Present:</b> John O’Keefe (chair), Chaylon Shuffield, John Taylor, Mike O’Leary, Barry Shullanberger, Jason Jaeger, and Justin Miles
<b>Reporting Time Frame:</b> July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023

**PROGRESS MEASUREMENT**

*This was a Light Review; quantitative details related to Measurable Objectives are not reported at Light Reviews.*

<b>Activities</b> (Lakeview and Fort Rock Silver Lake SWCDs, Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council)	<b>No.</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	8	Irrigation efficiency workshop; Chewaucan Marsh tour; fire response and watershed restoration tour; 2021 Annual Gathering; 2022 Annual Gathering; BDA Workshop; 2023 Annual Gathering; Low Tech Process Based Restoration Workshop.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	63	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance	139	Off-creek water; riparian fence; streambank stabilization; irrigation efficiency; upland seeding; juniper reduction; no-till seeding; reduce tillage farming; irrigation diversion upgrade/replacement; permitting consultation.
Site Visits	123	16 water quality related projects
Conservation Plans Written	15	Design plans.
Funding Applications Submitted	26	Grants written for technical assistance discussed above.
Funding Applications Awarded	9	Grants awarded for technical assistance discussed above.
Web site views	3,842	Number of views on council’s and districts’ websites.
Followers on council’s social media	433	256 Instagram, 177 Facebook.

**LAC DISCUSSION**

**Summary of Progress**

- There has been good progress on private lands post-wildfire recovery work, including slope stabilization to prevent soil erosion into surface waters, reseeding, herbicide treatment, and contour felling, and reconstructing grazing management fencing. Public lands are beginning to organize recovery projects as well, which is needed to achieve watershed health where wildfires have occurred.
- In some areas, private landowners and public land managers are working cooperatively across the landscape to proactively manage, protect, and respond to watershed health issues.
- Local partners are effectively assisting with ODAs Agricultural Water Quality Program strategic initiatives.
- Grant funding to support off-channel livestock water developments is important for water quality protection.

**Impediments**

- Public lands with post-fire dead wood falling on newly constructed grazing management fences.
- Funding for converting to low energy precision agriculture/low elevation sprinkler application (LEPA/LESA) was lost but is important for agriculture’s ability to efficiently use irrigation water.
- Landscapes have a lot of excess fuels sources susceptible to wildfires.
- Annual invasive grasses are problematic to water quality, wildfires, and destabilizing streambanks.
- Recently, fish populations have decreased. This is likely caused from sedimentation from fire scars that have a negative effect on macroinvertebrate populations, which in turn has a negative effect on fish populations.
- The 20-mile monitoring station in the middle of Warner Valley is not a good reflection of the watershed because it is on an agricultural drain.

### Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- Encourage and support cooperation across boundaries between private landowners and public land managers to protect and improve watershed health.
- Encourage public land managers to fell post-wildfire dead wood to clear a right of way around fencing.
- Encourage agencies to support grant funds for pivot conversions to LEPA/LESA systems.
- Increase the scale of prescribed fire planning and implementation to prevent catastrophic wildfires, which have negative effects on water quality.
- Allocate additional funding to support management and abatement of annual invasive grasses.
- Adding rocks to streams, rather than removing them from the landscape, could have a positive effect on macroinvertebrates.
- Maintain funding sources for off-channel water developments (including solar development).
- Consider pursuing development of off-channel livestock water that is sourced from streams.
- ODA Agricultural Water Quality Program should consider seeking more grant funds to further aid local conservation entities and landowners in their agricultural water quality conservation work.

### ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
	New	Closed		Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
				Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Within SIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0