

# Lower John Day

## Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture & ODA Director

Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

<b>Meeting Date:</b> March 16, 2021
<b>LAC Members Present:</b> John Anderson, Brad Eakin, Susie Anderson
<b>Reporting Time Frame:</b> March 2019-March 2021 (reporting time period is from last Biennial Review)

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT		
<i>This was a Light Review; quantitative details related to Measurable Objectives are not reported at Light Reviews.</i>		
Activities	Number	Discussion
Active Events	70	Approximately half of these were remote events.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	537	Approximately half of these were remote events.
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance	408	
Site Visits	159	
Conservation Plans Written	65	
Funding Applications Submitted	53	
Funding Applications Awarded	52	Unsuccessful BOR Watersmart Application.

LAC DISCUSSION
<b>Progress</b>
Riparian Vegetation: Landowner with violations in the SIA has major improvements and it is expected to improve further; East fork 30mile: will do Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) and riparian restoration; in 12-24 months will show major improvements in riparian vegetation.
Reducing sediment from uplands: Previous tillage practices were a concern; now uplands are no-till or reduced tillage and LAC is seeing dramatic changes and improvements.
Reducing livestock manure in streams: ODA worked with a landowner identified in the SIA to remove 4-6 large manure piles from Thirtymile Creek.
Outreach: Zoom meetings are difficult: landowners who want to be engaged want in-person meetings (we will have more participation once we can meet in person), and landowners are uncomfortable with Zoom or don't have the technology.
SIA: Open house was good. ODA mailings helped start the conversation between landowners and SWCD to start getting projects implemented on-the-ground; however, the letters were also confusing. Overlapping funding sources help SWCD be more efficient with SIA, FIP, and RCPP. Overall, SWCD feels the SIA is a good process.
Technical Assistance: Biggest priority in Sherman County is to add gravel to dirt farm roads to reduce sediment entering road ditches; this is biggest effort since the conversion to no-till to assist with soil loss and protect water quality.
<b>Impediments</b>
Draws are over-grassed, too thick, and need more grazing; challenges are those draws that don't qualify for NRCS program. CRP scheduled to come out of the program, leading to more farmed fields and potential for erosion. Fires have increased soil loss and reduced water quality. LAC member felt that CREP is in place too long - needs to be grazed off, creeks too full of vegetation. Overall, impediments are being addressed, although there is always room for improvement.
<b>Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management</b>
Modifications to Area Plan - none mentioned
Ways to improve - none mentioned

COMPLIANCE ACTIONS				
Location	Letter of Compliance	Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
Outside SIA	0	0	0	0
Within SIA	0	0	1	0