

BURNT RIVER

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

Meeting Date(s): March 10, 2021
LAC Members Present: Pat Sullivan, Waynette Morin, Wes Morgan
Reporting Time Frame: 2018-2020 Meeting was scheduled for March of 2020, COVID pandemic cancelled meeting.

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

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

Activities	No.	Discussion
Active Events	1	EOU Ag Water Quality Presentation
Landowners Participating in Active Events	10	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance	79	
Site Visits	30	
Conservation Plans Written	6	
Funding Applications Submitted	8	Spring Developments, Watering Facilities, Livestock Pipelines
Funding Applications Awarded	6	Spring Developments, Watering Facilities, Livestock Pipelines

LAC DISCUSSION (focused on water quality data)

Progress

DEQ Status & Trend reports showed that dissolved oxygen and pH have been attaining water quality standards.

Impediments

The main water quality concerns from agriculture include *E.coli* and phosphorous in the South and Middle Forks and in the Hereford Valley, particularly during the irrigation season. High summer temperatures are found throughout the watershed, including an increase in temperature as the Burnt River flows through the Hereford Valley. Unfortunately, most of the data are old (1990s through 2013). Wes Morgan noted that any temperature readings taken in smaller streams in the mid to late summer are not going to be accurate, as there is hardly any water in the streams at the time; the higher temperatures being reported are also the result of low flows.

LAC members were concerned about the lack of LAC participation. Wes Morgan pointed out that the online meetings are a big deterrent for people, and meeting face to face will be key in getting more participation.

RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Ellen Hammond asked for monitoring recommendations from the LAC; Wes Morgan stated that monitoring frequency and quality control is not an easy task but needs to be established for the sake of data accuracy; the water quality information we are reviewing now is not representative of current conditions. John Dadoly said that he agrees; he would like to see more continuous data for the parameters discussed and also said that monitoring should also be done during TMDL implementation. Powder Basin Watershed Council will be submitting a new monitoring proposal with these recommendations in April 2021. Tom Demianew asked the LAC members for ideas for better management; Pat Sullivan stated that off-stream watering is a great solution, but flood to sprinkler conversion is not a fit for certain stretches of the river (primarily through the valley below Unity Reservoir). He also stated that fencing the river is not conducive for flood irrigation and river flows; from experience, riparian fencing in this stretch of the river has caused the constant need for rebuilding fence.

COMPLIANCE ACTIONS

Location	Letter of Compliance	Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
Outside SIA(s)	X	X	X	X
Within SIA(s)	X	X	X	X