



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Burnt River Subbasin Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan

May, 2010

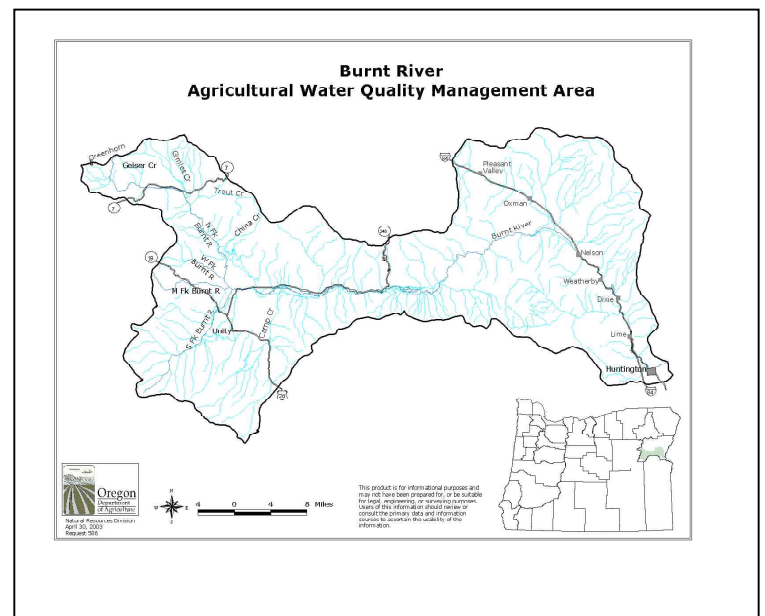
Burnt River Local Advisory Committee Meets to Review Area Plan

Meeting Summary

The Burnt River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) held its third biennial review of the Burnt River Area Plan (Area Plan) on May 6, 2010. The LAC met with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), and the Burnt River Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to review the progress of implementation of the Area Plan. LAC members present were Lynn Shumway, Kent Nelson, Jerry Franke, Dick D'ewart, Rodd Bunch. Others were in attendance from the Burnt River SWCD, SWCD staff and the general public.

ODA led a review of the Area Plan goals, objectives and implementation strategies, and presented an update of statewide compliance issues. The presentation focused on riparian area conditions and livestock interactions throughout eastern Oregon. Also, ODA gave a brief update on the current status of the Powder Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development.

The SWCD reported its implementation activities and the water quality protection practices installed by landowners during the past two years. Staff showed a video highlighting many of the successfully completed projects and activities of the past two years.



The Burnt River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area includes all the drainage area of the Burnt River, from the headwaters to the confluence with the Snake River.

Progress or impediments

The SWCD and landowners have been very active in implementing projects that protect water quality in the subbasin. The only impediment noted was the spread of invasive reed canarygrass that is hindering establishment of desired riparian vegetation.



Background



Banks diversion before and after. The banks diversion was a gravel push up dam that reduced water quality due to its installation and constant maintenance throughout the irrigation season.

The LAC developed the Area Plan in 2003. The Plan identifies strategies to reduce water pollution from agricultural lands through a combination of educational programs, monitoring, suggested land treatment, and management activities. Landowners and the SWCD use it to guide solutions to water quality problems and to enhance public awareness and understanding of water quality issues.

In May 2003, the Oregon Board of Agriculture adopted the Area Plan and Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) (603-095-3200 thru 3260). Biennial reviews of the progress of implementation of the Area Plan were conducted in 2006 and 2008.

Goals & Objectives

The goals of the Area Plan are to:

- Work toward a reduction in any identified undesirable water quality areas by attempting to prevent and control characteristics on agricultural lands in the Plan area that contribute to undesirable water quality;
- Aid in achievement of attainable water quality standards within the Plan area;
- Continue and expand, if necessary, the current water quality monitoring program established by the SWCD and the Burnt River Irrigation District;
- Apply the lessons learned from the Burnt River Temperature Study.

To achieve its purpose and goals, the LAC establishes the following water quality related objectives for agricultural land in the Plan area:

- Stream bank erosion remains within expected levels;

- Maintain or improve the ability of riparian vegetation to function within the capabilities of the site;
- Continue and expand, if necessary, the current monitoring program as outlined in the Burnt River Temperature Study.

Prohibited Conditions

OAR 603-095-3240

A landowner shall be responsible for only those conditions caused by activities conducted on land owned or managed by the landowner. Criteria do not apply to conditions resulting from unusual weather events or other exceptional circumstances that could not have been reasonably anticipated.

Pollution And Waste Management

Effective upon adoption, no person subject to these rules shall violate any provision of ORS 468B.025 or ORS 468B.050.

Streamside Conditions

By January 1, 2006, activities will allow the establishment and development of riparian vegetation, consistent with site capability. Site capability will be determined by ODA in consultation with local resource management agencies. Landowners are not responsible for browsing and grazing by wildlife.

TMDL

The TMDL development is beginning this year and expected to be completed in two to three years.

Compliance Summary

No compliance investigations have occurred in the management area.



Juniper Rip-rap

Juniper removed from the uplands is placed to prevent streambank erosion.

Summary of Accomplishments/Success Story



Summary of Accomplishments

LAC Members

- Lynn Shumway, co-chair
- Kent Nelson, co-chair
- Jerry Franke
- Keith Shollenberger
- Bonnie Clugston
- Pat Sullivan
- Mark Nelson
- Eugene Hawes
- Dick D'ewart
- Ted Bloomer
- Rodd Bunch
- Rob Otheim

Outreach & Education

- Cows & Creeks workshop;
- Pasture & Irrigation management workshop;
- Several youth education programs.

Technical Assistance – landowner projects funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Natural Resources Conservation Services (OWEB, NRCS) and other sources:

- Push-up dam removed and replaced with permanent diversion structure;
- Juniper rip rap for streambank erosion control;
- Juniper control for: upland water savings, aspen & mountain mahogany restoration, sage grouse habitat, and forage production;
- Grazing management with cross fencing, spring developments, and weed control.



Success Stories

The SWCD applied for and received three major grants from USDA/NRCS for installation of conservation practices:

- *Agriculture Watershed Enhancement Program (AWEP)* – Improves water quality and quantity by providing efficient on-farm delivery and application systems. Thirty percent of producers in the area are involved.
- *Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)* – Improves water quality and watershed health on private lands in conjunction with similar work on adjoining public lands.
- *Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)* – Does groundwork for the formation of a county-wide grassbank to offer substitute forage in return for performing conservation actions.

Oregon Department Of Agriculture

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We're on the Web!
See us at:

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/water_quality_front.shtml

**Ag Water Quality Program
Burnt River Management Area
Biennial Review Accomplishments Summary**

The goals of the plan are to:

- A. Work toward a reduction in any identified undesirable water quality areas by attempting to prevent and control characteristics on agricultural lands in the plan area that contribute to undesirable water quality;
- B. Aid in achievement of attainable water quality standards within the plan area;
- C. Continue and expand, if necessary, the current water quality monitoring program established by the SWCD and the Burnt River Irrigation District; and
- D. Apply the lessons learned from the Burnt River Temperature Study.

OWEB Funded Grants	Burnt River Early Intervention Juniper Control and Rip Rap Project II
	Moore Feedlot Relocation
	Lookout Mountain. Sage Grouse & Mountain. Mahogany Improvement Project
	Banks Ditch Push-up Dam Removal
	West Camp Creek Juniper
	Burnt River/Woodtick Watershed Enhancement WUI
Partnership Projects	Agriculture Watershed Enhancement Program (AWEP)
	Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)
	Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)
	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
	Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
Outreach & Education	Cows & Creeks Workshop
	Irrigated Pasture and Forages Seminar
	EOU Informational Booth
	Field to Fork Field Day
	Vale Middle School Water Class
	Baker County Cattlemen's Tour
	Burnt River Spring Range and Weed Tour
	Baker County Fair Booth
Monitoring	No data available