

Overview of the 2020 Eastern Lower Deschutes Strategic Implementation Area - Wasco and Sherman Counties

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Water Quality Program



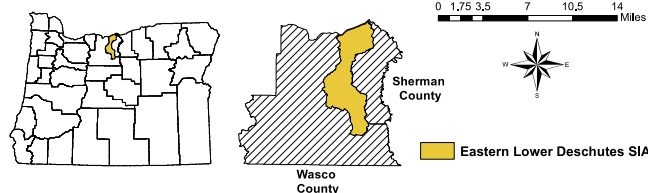
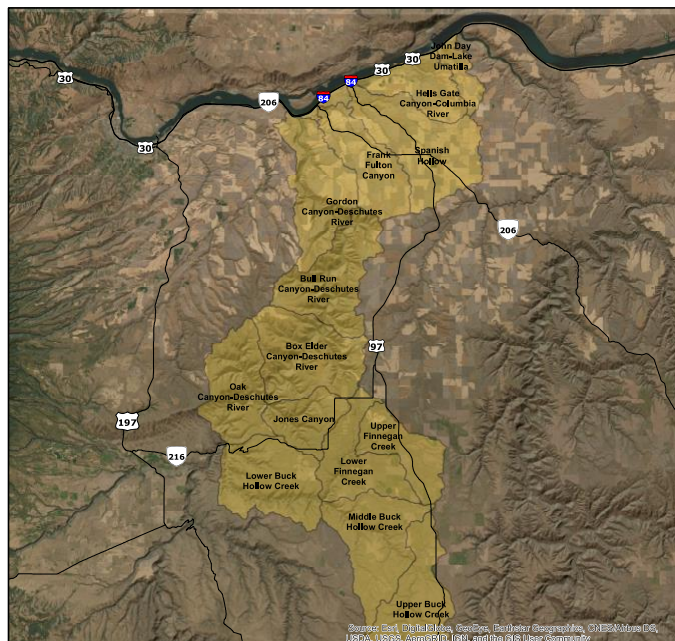
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Purpose: The Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) initiative includes four key components:

1. Demonstrate compliance with Oregon's agricultural water quality regulations.
2. Voluntary, incentive-based conservation.
3. Monitoring to track water quality and land conditions.
4. Locally-led collaborative partnerships.

Evaluation Process: ODA remotely identifies opportunities for water quality improvement within agricultural lands by reviewing aerial imagery, maps, stream and drainage locations, property boundaries, soils, and well logs. The presence of an agricultural activity (such as livestock or cropping), slope, proximity to the waterbody, size of the waterbody, and stream type (seasonal or year-round) are considered when identifying potential water quality impacts. ODA also completes a field evaluation from public viewpoints to verify results from the remote evaluation and document any additional observations.

Why this watershed? ODA's SIA selection process includes the location of agricultural lands and streams, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) list of impaired waterbodies and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) local fish habitat priorities. These data sources help prioritize areas for SIA work.



Eastern Lower Deschutes Strategic Implementation Area

Overview of the Eastern Lower Deschutes SIA

Agriculture: Livestock, wheat, specialty crops and pasture.

Local Agricultural Concerns: Unmanaged livestock access to streamside areas and lack of streamside vegetation

Watershed Hydrological Unit Code and Name:

- 170701011408: John Day Dam
- 170701050101: Spanish Hollow
- 170701050102: Frank Fulton Canyon
- 170701050103: Hells gate Canyon
- 170703061001: Upper Buck Hollow Creek
- 170703061002: Upper Finnegan Creek
- 170703061003: Lower Finnegan Creek

Agricultural Water Quality Management Area: Lower Deschutes

Water Quality Concern: Stream Temperature

Watershed Continued:

- 170703061004: Middle Buck Hollow Creek
- 170703061005: Lower Buck Hollow Creek
- 170703061201: Jones Canyon
- 170703061202: Oak Canyon
- 170703061203: Box Elder Canyon
- 170703061204: Bull Run Canyon
- 170703061205: Gordan Canyon

Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Regulations:

- Agricultural activities must allow for the ongoing growth and establishment of streamside vegetation necessary to provide shade, stabilize banks, and filter pollutants from overland flows along year-round and seasonal streams.
- Landowners must not pollute ground or surface water by discharging wastes into waters of the state or placing any wastes in a location where they are likely to enter waters of the state.
 - Wastes include excess soil, manure, fertilizer, or other substances that can pollute water.
 - Waters of the state include ponds, groundwater, canals, ditches, streams and rivers.
- Lower Deschutes (OARs 603-095-0600,0620,0640,0660)

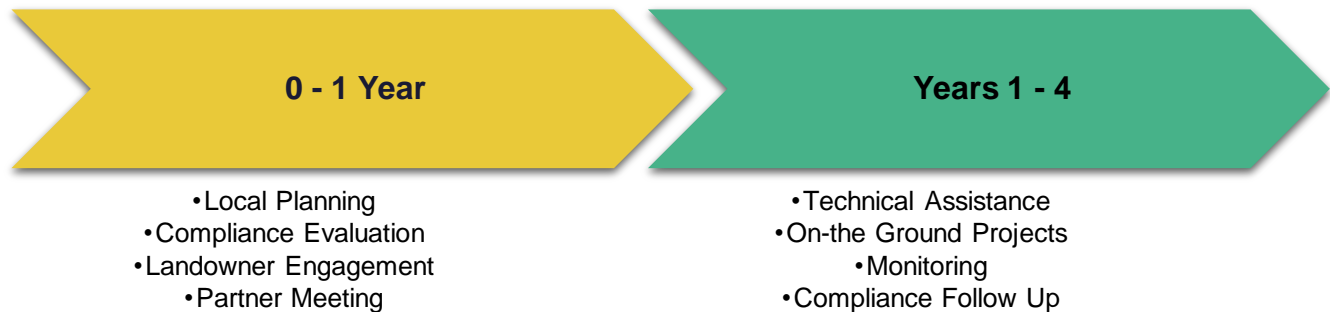
Online Link to Lower Deschutes Agricultural Water Quality Area Rules

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/NaturalResources/DeschutesLowerAWQMAAdminRules.pdf>

Available Funding

For the 2019-2021 biennium, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) approved \$1.6 million (\$100,000 per SIA) of grant funds. These funds can be used for landowner engagement and technical assistance activities such as on-site assessments, conservation and project planning, and assistance in applying for project funding. The OWEB Board also authorized an additional \$25,000 for each SIA to support monitoring activities.

SIA Implementation Process and Timeline



Landowner Engagement

- ODA sends the owners of all evaluated properties informational letters and SIA outreach materials.
- The SWCD and local partners work to engage landowners in voluntary incentive-based conservation.

Technical Assistance

- The SWCD is available to offer technical assistance to all landowners in the SIA to help address water quality concerns, provide conservation planning and technical resources, support on the ground project design, and assist in applying for incentive-based funding where available.

Compliance

- ODA initiates the compliance process where potential water quality concerns remain. If a compliance investigation is opened, ODA's compliance process is followed.

Monitoring

- The SWCD along with local partners will develop a monitoring plan to evaluate landscape conditions and water quality.

Demonstrating Compliance

ODA monitors and reports SIA progress and accomplishments toward addressing local water quality concerns related to agricultural activities. Go online for the 2014 to 2019 SIA Progress Report: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/NaturalResources/SIAProgressReport.pdf>

Contact Information

Theresa DeBardelaben – ODA SIA Lead
Oregon Department of Agriculture
Regional Water Quality Specialist
Bend, OR
Phone: 503-931-1754
Email: tdebardelaben@oda.state.or.us

Amanda Whitman – Local SWCD Contact
Sherman County SWCD
District Manager
Moro, OR
Phone: 541-705-5070
Email: Amanda.Whitman@or.nacdn.net



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