

Wheeler Soil & Water Conservation

Annual Work Plan

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

MISSION STATEMENT

To maximize economic and environmental watershed values for Wheeler County

Goals

Improve health of the watersheds through holistic measures that enhance water quality and quantity for beneficial uses.

Improve soil conservation and health to ensure continued resource availability for future generations.

Provide education and outreach to the public and partner agencies/organizations.

Manage the business of the district in an efficient and effective manner.

AgWQMAP	Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan
APHIS	Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service
ARS	Agricultural Research Service
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CCRP	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
CHaMP	Columbia Basin Habitat Monitoring Project (<i>techniques used by ODFW</i>)
CIS	Conservation Implementation Strategy
CREP	Conservation Resource Enhancement Program
CRMP	Conservation Resource Management Plan
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CSP	Conservation Stewardship Program
CTWS	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality
DSL	Department of State Lands
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FIP / OWEB	Focused Investment Partnership (OWEB)
FSA	Farm Services Agency
ISRP	Independent Scientific Review Panel
LO	Landowner
LAC	Local Advisory Committee
LJDWG	Lower John Day Work Group
LMA	Local Management Agency
Mid-C Plan	Middle Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan
MJDBCWC	Mid John Day - Bridge Creek Watershed Council
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
NPS	Non-Point Source (pollution)
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWPCC	Northwest Power & Conservation Council
OACD	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODA NRD	Oregon Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division
ODF	Oregon Department of Forestry
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
OCEAN	Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network
OPLI	Oregon Paleo Lands Institute
OSHA	Occupational Safety & Health Administration
OSU	Oregon State University
OSWB	Oregon State Weed Board
OWEB	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
OWRD	Oregon Water Resources Department
RCPP	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
SDAO	Special Districts Association of Oregon
SOW	Statement of Work
SWCC	Soil & Water Conservation Commission
SWCD	Soil & Water Conservation District
TMDL	Total maximum daily load
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish & Wildlife Service
WQ	Water quality
WC	Watershed Council
WSWCD	Wheeler Soil & Water Conservation District
WTA	Watershed Technical Assistance

OBJECTIVE:	Improve health of the watersheds to enhance water quality and quantity and improve soil conservation and health for beneficial uses.
ACTIVITIES	TASK
Assessments, Action Planning, Conservation Planning	Continue to work collaboratively with ODFW to update and map inventory list of fish passage barriers within the District.
	Assist landowners with Ag Water Quality and conservation planning.
	Work cooperatively with ODOT & ODFW to establish culvert replacement priority list within Butte Creek Watershed.
	Continue outreach to acquire LO participation Kahler Creek Reach Evaluations.
	Continue to participate in John Day Basin Partnership with setting priorities.
	Continue to participate in Lower John Day Work Group's place-based planning process.
Form and/or maintain partnerships with federal, state, local agencies, tribes and conservation organizations and foundations.	Work to define agencies' roles, working relationships and support of natural resource enhancement activities; supply technical, fiscal or other assistance.
	Assist and promote watershed council activity, provide technical advice, and continue capacity building for the watershed council.
	Participate in John Day Basin Partnership and the Lower John Day Working Group.
	Continue to work with partner agencies developing coordinated weed management.
	Work with NRCS and Gilliam SWCD on the implementation of the Lower John Day Canyons Restoration Initiative RCPP.
	Work with ODA to develop proactive communication regarding potential enforcement issues, allowing WSWCD to work preemptively with local landowners.
Set strategic priority work areas.	Establish strategic priorities based on identified needs and requirements within the District, with consideration to the John Day Sub-basin Plan, Oregon Plan, ODFW inventories, CTWS's John Day River Watershed Restoration Strategy, the Mid-Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan and the John Day Partnership Strategic Action Plan. Incorporate new plans as adopted.
	Continue noxious weed inventory and mapping as staff time allows. Continue to gather and include in weed inventory existing data from partner agencies.
Implementation of projects and practices.	Contact landowners and conduct evaluations of project sites.
	Provide technical assistance, engineering designs and project installation specifications.
	Facilitate necessary project permitting and consultations.
	Implement and promote USDA, CREP, OWEB, FIP, CTWS/BPA, and Small Grant projects.
	Seek and implement other funding agency projects.
	Ensure project implementation meets NRCS compliance standards.
	Implement NRCS RCPP and other programs.
	Implement and promote Federal and State Weed grant projects.
Project Monitoring	Complete photo points and effectiveness monitoring and submit agency monitoring reports.
	Document post project conditions for reach evaluations/action plan database. Update database to document project effectiveness.
	Assist JDP as needed with FIP monitoring.

OBJECTIVE:	Provide education and outreach
ACTIVITIES	TASK
Provide education and outreach to the public and partner agencies/organizations.	Provide AgWQMAP information and fact sheets for distribution, and participate in local community events.
	Provide information about USDA Farm Bill programs and activities.
	Publish an annual report, periodic newsletters and press releases of District functions.
	Conduct workshops annually, as beneficial.
	Conduct county-wide project tours or day fairs.
	Participate in community activities with county fair exhibit, annual presentation to county public entities and annual meeting presentations.
	Assist OSU Extension Service with workshops.
	Provide opportunity for school age children to participate activities pertaining to conservation.
	Assist Wheeler County Stock Growers with workshops pertinent to natural resources.
	Provide work and project information to legislative agencies and natural resource organizations.

OBJECTIVE:	Manage the business of the District
ACTIVITIES	TASK
Seek funding	Seek funding to support staff positions.
	Seek funding for project implementation.
	Seek alternative funding opportunities.
	Seek funding for Action Plans and Reach Evaluations.
District Activities	Continue to seek completion of NRCS county soil survey and acquire program status information.
	Prepare statements of work for ODA, BPA and Watershed Council grant projects.
	Maintain and update the District web site and Facebook page.
	Continue to use Oregon Purchasing and website for distributing District bid information, along with other advertising agencies.
	Attend work related workshops, conventions and training sessions.
	Recruit as needed to fill vacant Board of Director positions and recruit associate directors for training to fill Board positions.
	Prepare budgets, conduct audits and complete reports as required.
	Hold monthly Board meetings and an annual meeting.
	Hold committee meetings as needed.
	Hold monthly staff and safety meetings, or complete online SDAO Safety Trainings.
	Review and update District policies, and develop new policies as needed.
	Update county weed list and submit to County Court for approval as needed.
	Update Weed Board Member appointments.
	Continue to work with Ag WQ Planner on next AgWQMA Plan biennial review, documenting accomplishments, compiling information for the Board of Agriculture report, and updating plan as needed.
	Participate in NRCS work group.
	Review District's Annual Work Plan, as needed.
	Conduct SDAO or OSHA site inspection and complete self-insured annual evaluation.
	Transition planning and development of new job description, as needed.
Conduct employee evaluations, develop new written employee training policy.	