

Wheeler Soil & Water Conservation District

Annual Work Plan Fiscal Year 2019-2020

MISSION STATEMENT

To maximize economic and environmental watershed values for Wheeler County residents by developing, conserving and protecting water, soil, plant structures and other natural resources.

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.

*For period: July 2019 – June 2020
Board Approved: June 26, 2019*

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

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

<i>OBJECTIVES</i>	<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	<i>TASK</i>	<i>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</i>
<p>Improve health of the watersheds to enhance water quality and quantity and improve soil conservation and health for beneficial uses.</p>	<p>Assessments, Action Planning, Conservation Planning</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continue to work collaboratively with ODFW to update and map inventory list of fish passage barriers within the District.2. Assist landowners with Ag Water Quality and conservation planning.3. Continue reach evaluations within the district to develop watershed database and action plans.4. Work cooperatively with the watershed council to develop a reach evaluation/action plan for Butte Creek Assessment and seek match partners.5. Work cooperatively with ODOT & ODFW to establish culvert replacement priority list within Butte Creek Watershed.	

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Improve health of the watersheds to enhance water quality and quantity and improve soil conservation and health for beneficial uses.	Assessments, Action Planning, Conservation Planning	7. Continue outreach to acquire LO participation in Butte Creek and Kahler Creek Reach watersheds. 8. Consider changing to new focus area or expanding Mountain Creek Focus Area. Discuss w/ ODA staff expanding the Mountain Creek Focus Area, and collect baseline data if FA is expanded. 9. Continue to participate in Lower John Day Work Group's place-based planning process.	

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

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<p>Improve health of the watersheds to enhance water quality and quantity and improve soil conservation and health for beneficial uses.</p>	<p>Form and/or maintain partnerships with federal, state, local agencies, tribes and conservation organizations and foundations.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work to define agencies' roles, working relationships and support of natural resource enhancement activities; supply technical, fiscal or other assistance. 2. Assist and promote watershed council activity, provide technical advice, and continue capacity building for the watershed council. 3. Participate in John Day Basin Partnership and the Lower John Day Working Group. 4. Continue to work with joint agencies developing coordinated weed management. 5. Participate in the LJDWG and provide facilitation assistance in conjunction with WRD (place-based planning). 6. Continue to work w/ NRCS, NPS & CTWS in outreach activities. 	

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Improve health of the watersheds to enhance water quality and quantity and improve soil conservation and health for beneficial uses.	Form and/or maintain partnerships with federal, state, local agencies, tribes and conservation organizations and foundations.	7. Work with ODA to develop proactive communication regarding potential enforcement issues, allowing WSWCD to work preemptively with local landowners.	

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<p>Improve health of the watersheds to enhance water quality and quantity and improve soil conservation and health for beneficial uses.</p>	<p>Set strategic priority work areas.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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 WS Restoration Strategy and Watershed Council Action Plan, the Mid-Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan and the John Day Partnership Strategic Action Plan. Incorporate new plans as adopted. 2. Continue noxious weed inventory and mapping as staff time allows. Continue to gather and include in weed inventory existing data from partner agencies. 3. Craft the District's Long Range Strategic Business Plan for 2020-2025. 	

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<p>Improve health of the watersheds to enhance water quality and quantity and improve soil conservation and health for beneficial uses.</p>	<p>Implementation of projects and practices.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Contact landowners and conduct evaluations of project sites.2. Provide technical assistance, engineering designs and project installation specifications.3. Facilitate necessary project permitting and consultations.4. Promote and implement USDA programs, and continue to support implementation of CREP in Wheeler County.5. Implement and promote OWEB projects.6. Implement and promote Small Grant projects.7. Implement and promote CTWS/BPA projects, and monitor funding packages.8. Seek and implement other funding agency projects.	

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Improve health of the watersheds to enhance water quality and quantity and improve soil conservation and health for beneficial uses.	Implementation of projects and practices.	9. Ensure project implementation meets NRCS compliance standards. 10. Implement NRCS RCPP and other programs. 11. Implement and promote State Weed grant projects. 12. Implement and document accomplishments for the Mountain Creek Focus Area. 13. FIP project planning and implementation.	

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<p>Improve health of the watersheds to enhance water quality and quantity and improve soil conservation and health for beneficial uses.</p>	<p>Project Monitoring</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Complete photo points and effectiveness monitoring, and submit funding agency monitoring reports.2. Document post project conditions for reach evaluations/ action plan database. Update database to document project effectiveness.3. Conduct Mountain Creek Reach Evaluation focus area monitoring: buffer vegetation shade, and erosion.4. Assist JDP as needed with FIP monitoring.	

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

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Provide education and outreach	Provide education and outreach to the public and partner agencies/organizations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide AgWQMAP information and fact sheets for distribution, and participate in local community events.2. Provide information about USDA Farm Bill programs and activities.3. Publish an annual report, periodic newsletters and press releases of district functions.4. Conduct workshops annually, as beneficial.5. Conduct county-wide project tours or day fairs.6. Participate in community activities with county fair exhibit, annual presentation to county public entities and annual meeting presentations.7. Assist OSU Extension Service with workshops.	

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Provide education and outreach	Provide education and outreach to the public and partner agencies/organizations.	8. Create displays and provide presentations for various agency conferences and symposiums, as needed. 9. Assist Wheeler County Stock Growers with workshops pertinent to natural resources. 10. Implement development of interactive educational kiosk of district project work. 11. Provide work and project information to legislative agencies and natural resource organizations. 12. Support the CONNECT conference.	

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

<i>OBJECTIVES</i>	<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	<i>TASK</i>	<i>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</i>
Manage the business of the District	Seek funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Seek funding to support staff positions.2. Seek funding for project implementation.3. Seek alternative funding opportunities.4. Seek funding for Action Plans and Reach Evaluations.	

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

<i>OBJECTIVES</i>	<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	<i>TASK</i>	<i>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</i>
<p>Manage the business of the District</p>	<p>District Activities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to seek completion of NRCS county soil survey and acquire program status information. 2. Prepare statements of work for ODA, BPA and Watershed Council grant projects. 3. Maintain and update the District web site and Facebook page. 4. Continue to use Oregon Purchasing and website for distributing district bid information, along with other advertising agencies. 5. Attend work related workshops, conventions and training sessions. 6. Recruit as needed to fill vacant Board of Director positions: recruit Associate Directors for training to fill Board positions. 7. Prepare budgets, conduct audits and complete reports as required. 	

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Manage the business of the District	District Activities	8. Hold monthly board meetings and an annual meeting. 9. Hold committee meetings as needed. 10. Hold monthly staff and safety meetings, or complete online SDAO Safety Trainings. 11. Review and update District policies, and develop new policies as needed. 12. Update county weed list and submit to County Court for approval as needed. 13. Update Weed Board Member appointments. 14. 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.	

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Manage the business of the District	District Activities	15. Participate in NRCS work group. 16. Review district's Annual Work Plan quarterly. 17. Conduct SDAO or OSHA site inspection and complete self-insured annual evaluation. 18. Transition planning and development of new job descriptions, if needed. 19. Conduct employee evaluations, develop new written employee training policy.	