

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Region 5 (Eastern) Review Team
Evaluation for February 1, 2002 Applications**

APPLICATION NO.: z201-697	PROJECT TYPE: Restoration
PROJECT NAME: Baker Irrigation Efficiency Walla Walla River	
APPLICANT: Walla Walla Basin WSC	
BASIN: Umatilla	COUNTY: Umatilla
OWEB FUNDS REQUESTED: \$26,500.00	TOTAL COST: \$52,207.00

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project seeks cost-share funding to convert 24.1 acres of flood-irrigated orchard to a permanent pumped mainline and lateral sprinkler system. The water savings will be protected instream as part of the conserved water program. An estimated .3 cfs instream water right will be created with 1865, 1890 and 1905 dates attached. Additional flows in the Walla Walla basin will improve habitat for ESA-listed bull trout, steelhead and salmon. The landowner will convert 24.1 acres of furrow-irrigated orchard to permanently piped in-ground sprinkler system (also known as "solid-set") as part of an OWRD conserved water project. The project will allow a rate reduction of 16.88 gpm to 11.2 gpm on 24.1 acres. The 5.7 gpm saved per acre will be the equivalent of 136.9 gpm or .3 cfs to be left in the Walla Walla. A headgate and measuring-device project was completed last year. A new fish screen was also installed. Project objectives are to increase flows, increase irrigation efficiency and to provide economic as well as watershed-enhancing benefits.

OWEB funds are requested for irrigation pipe and pump materials (91%) and administration. Other cost-share partners are the landowner, WRD and the WWBWC.

The project follows the objectives stated in the *Walla Walla Basin Watershed Assessment and Action Plan* 1999 and the *Bull Trout Working Group Recovery Plan Draft* and the *Bi-State Conservation Strategy*. Also project implementation will follow the *SB1010 Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan* for the Walla Walla basin as it will improve water quality as well as water quantity.

REGIONAL TEAM REVIEW:

The project was previously recommended for funding, but was below the recommended funding level. The project will decrease sediment and nutrient transport to the Walla Walla River. It was also stated that the efficiency should be better than what the project application indicated. The project is located in an area of the Walla Walla basin where there are few on-going restoration efforts. Implementing more projects in this area of the basin will have a positive demonstration value to these local landowners. This will help to encourage more future projects in the upper watershed, a significant benefit. However, the committee felt that a design is needed. Also, the committee stated that an irrigation water management plan is needed and that the WWBWC is not qualified to inspect the completed project. They will need to have this inspected by another qualified party, perhaps OSU Extension, if available.

RECOMMENDATION: Fund with Conditions

Fund with the condition to develop an irrigation management plan and have an inspection by a qualified party.

PRIORITY: 19 of 24 Capital