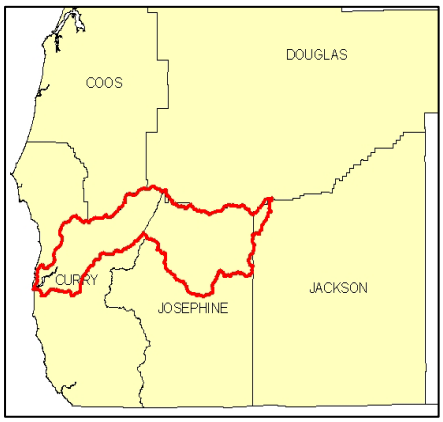
Lower Rogue – 17100310

8-Digit Hydrologic Unit Profile

FINAL

SWCD	Acres	SWCD	Acres
Josephine	315,017	Douglas	3,584
Curry	242,299	Coos	1,387
Jackson	15,665	Illinois Valley	141



Introduction

The Lower Rogue 8-Digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) subbasin is comprised of 578,000 acres, mostly in Josephine and Curry Counties. Ninety-three percent of the subbasin is forestland, and five percent is pastureland, hayland, and grassland. Pastureland is included on commercial dairies and many small-acreage farms. There are two permitted CAFOs and about 240 permitted animals in the subbasin.

The primary resource concern on forestland is the impact of soil erosion from forest roads and landings on fish and wildlife. Other significant resource concerns include streambank erosion, diminishing water quality, invasive weeds, and minimal pasture management. Economic, political, and social issues, such as unavailable labor, high resource management requirements, perceived land use constraints, development pressure, and controversy between new and longtime residents, impede the diffusion of conservation on agricultural lands in the subbasin.

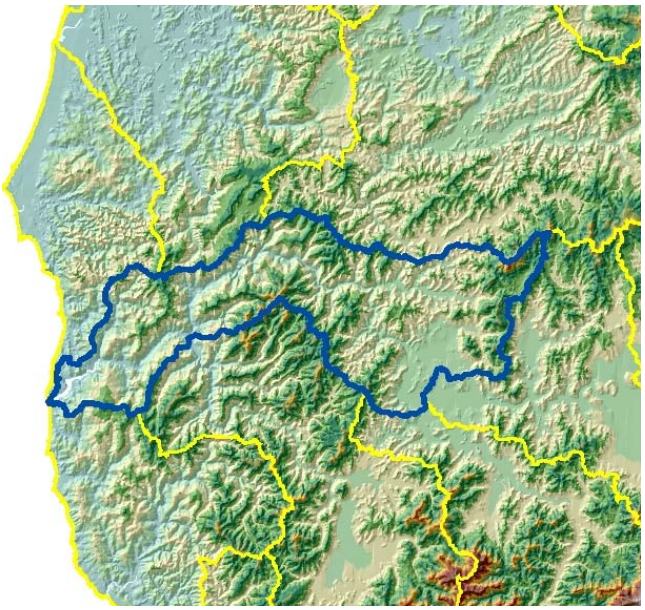
There are 220 farms and 358 operators in the Lower Rogue subbasin. Most of the farms are less than 50 acres, and ninety-one percent are less than 180 acres. Conservation is not widespread throughout the agricultural community. A lack of *timely* technical assistance contributes to the lack of conservation. Operators generally are able to adopt conservation, but they commonly are unwilling to do so. Conservation marketing and technical assistance from private, non-governmental sources (e.g. Technical Service Providers) may be the best way to increase the adoption of conservation.

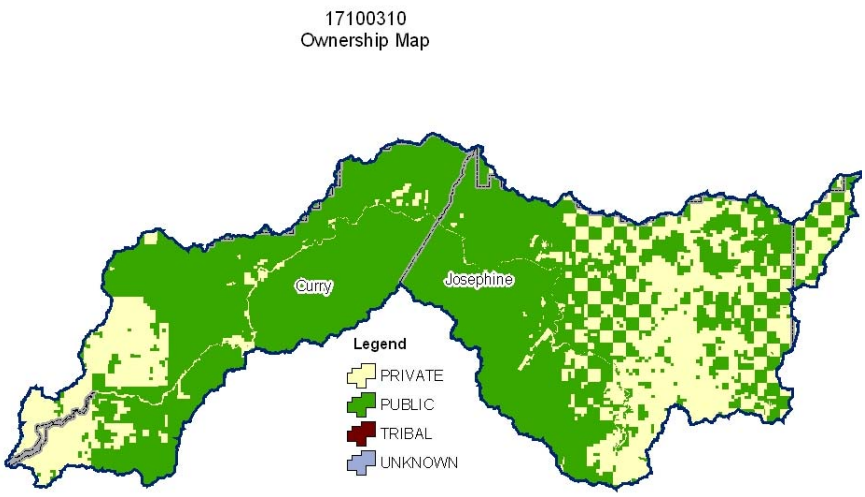
Conservation assistance in the subbasin is largely provided by the Medford NRCS Service Center, Josephine and Curry County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) office, Lower Rogue and Middle Rogue Watershed Councils, and other local conservation organizations.

Profile Contents

Introduction
Physical Description
Land Use Map & Precipitation Map
Common Resource Area
Resource Concerns
Census and Social Data
Progress/Status
Footnotes/Bibliography

Relief Map





Produced by the Water Resources Planning Team Portland, OR

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Physical Description

Back to Contents

ALL NUMBERS IN THIS PROFILE ARE FOR OREGON ONLY

Land Cover/Land Use (NLCD[12])	Ownership - (2003 Draft BLM Surface Map Set[11])							
	Public		Private		Tribal		Totals	%
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%		
Forest	381,900	66%	157,100	27%	0	0%	**539,000**	**93%**
Grain Crops	*	---	*	---	0	0%	*	---
Conservation Reserve Program Land [a]	*	---	*	---	0	0%	*	---
Grass/Pasture/Hay	11,300	2%	17,800	3%	0	0%	**29,100**	**5%**
Orchards/Vineyards	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Row Crops	*	---	*	---	0	0%	*	---
Shrub/Rangelands	*	---	*	---	0	0%	**6,000**	**1%**
Water/Wetlands/Developed/Barren	*	---	*	---	0	0%	*	---
Oregon HUC Totals [b]	**397,300**	**69%**	**180,300**	**31%**	**0**	**0%**	**577,600**	**100%**

**: Less than 1 percent of total acres. See below for special considerations.*
a: Estimate from Farm Service Agency records and includes CRP/CREP.
b: Totals are approximate due to rounding and small unknown acreages.

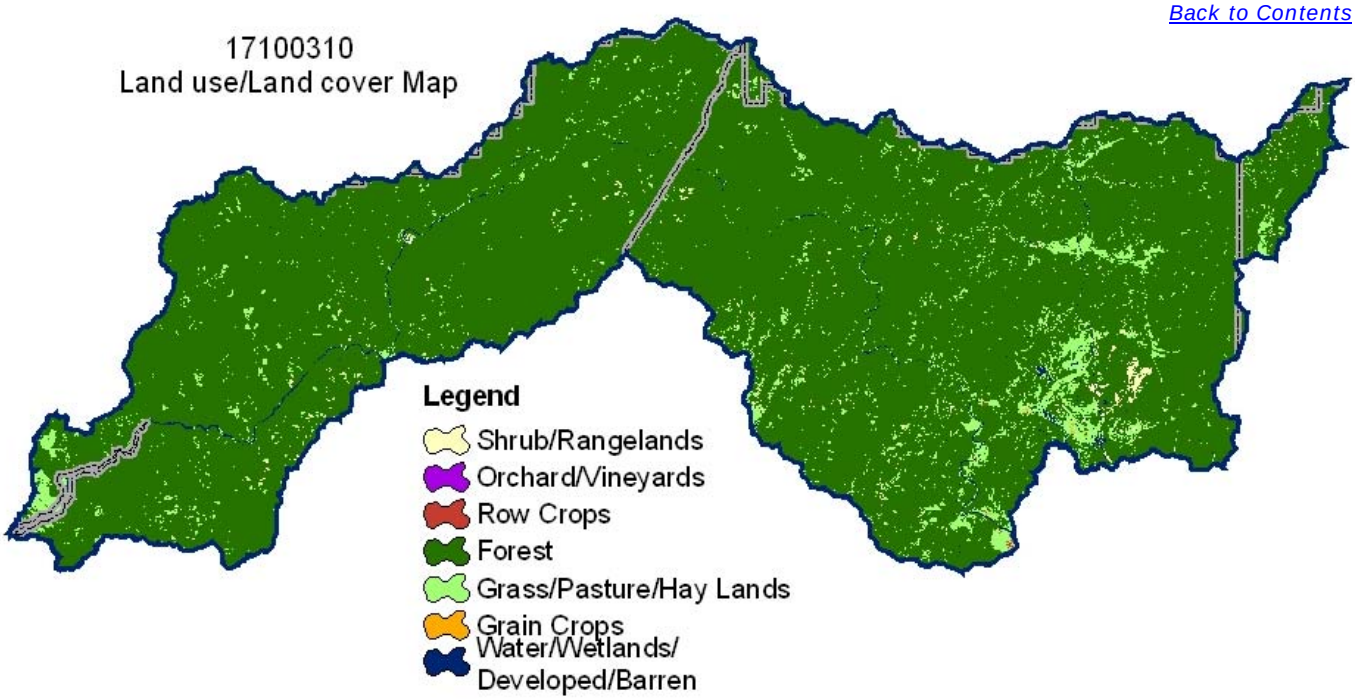
Special Considerations for This 8-Digit HUC:

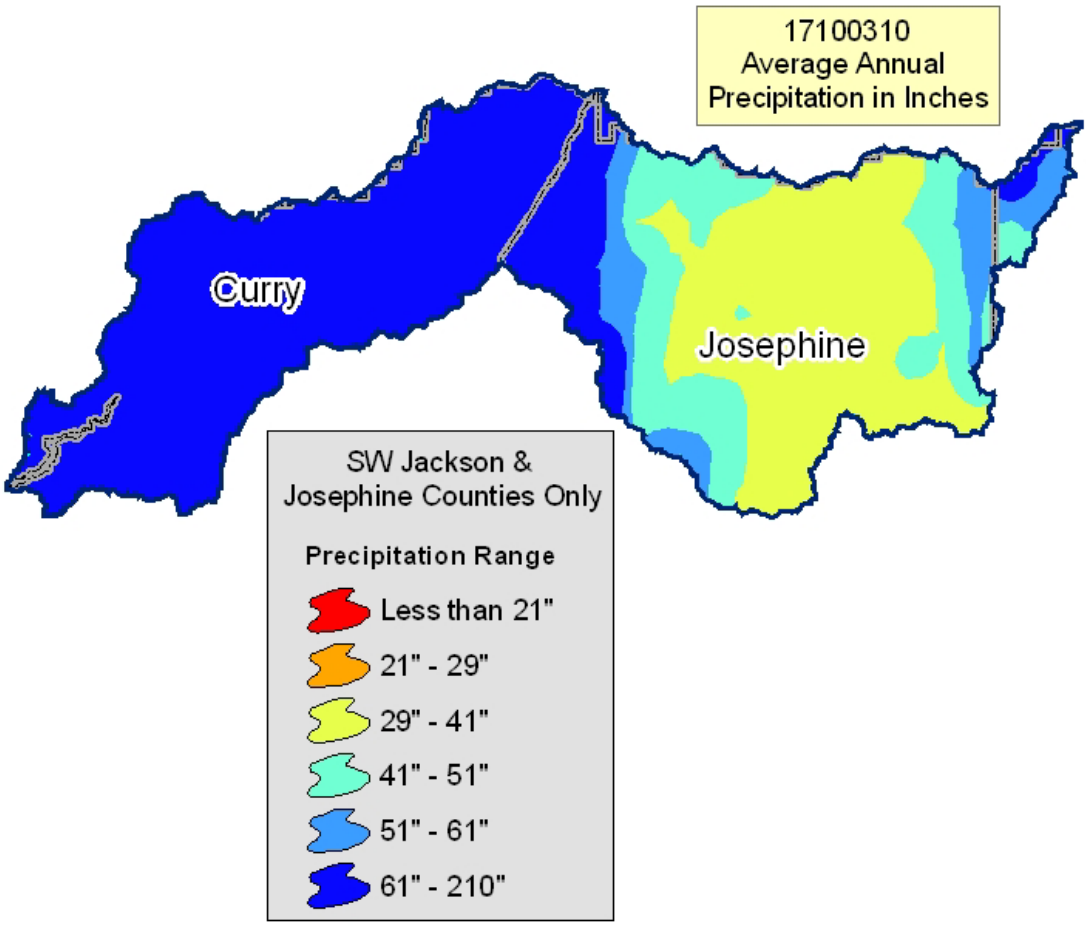
- Approximately 38 percent of the private forestland is under industrial forest ownership (OSU, Forestry Sciences Laboratory).
- Pastureland is included on commercial dairies as well as on small farms and ranchettes.

Irrigated Lands (1997 NRI[13] Estimates for Non-Federal Lands Only)	Type of Land	ACRES	% of Irrigated Lands	% of HUC
	Cultivated Cropland	0	0%	0%
	Uncultivated Cropland	2,100	66%	0%
	Pastureland	1,100	34%	0%
	Total Irrigated Lands	**3,200**	**100%**	**<1%**

(Continued on the following pages)

Back to Contents

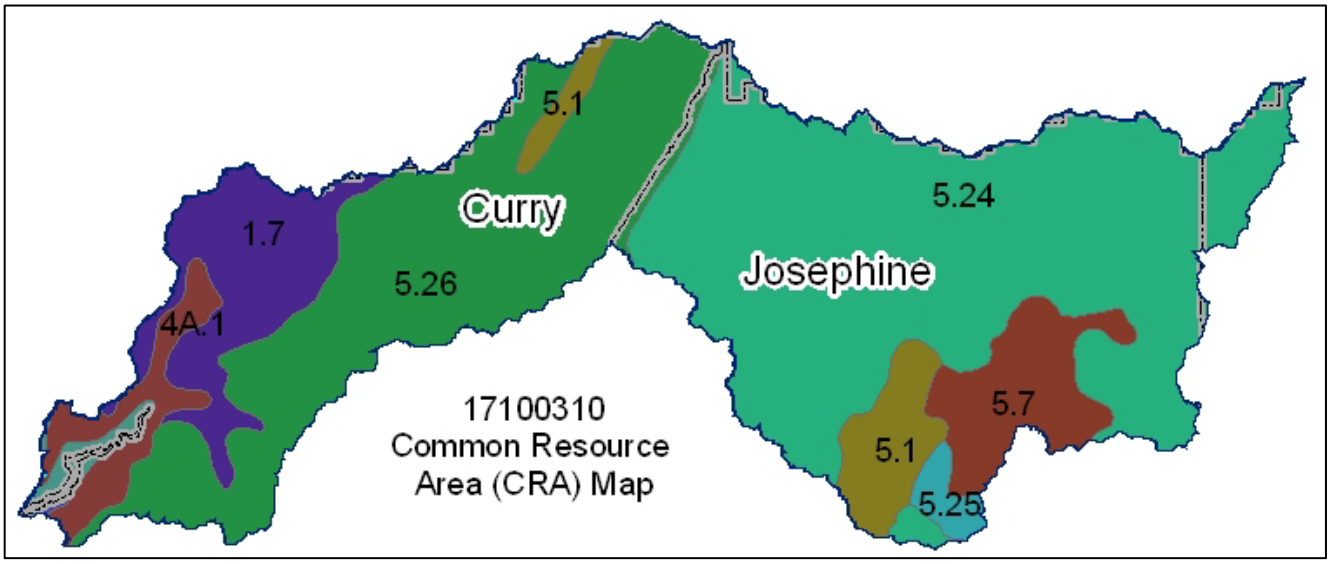




Common Resource Area Map

Back to Contents

Only the major units are described below - for descriptions of all units within the HUC, go to: http://ice.or.nrcs.usda.gov/website/cra/viewer.htm



1.7 – Northern Pacific Coast Range, Foothills, and Valleys - Southern Oregon Coastal Mountains: This unit is comprised of mountains that typically have sedimentary bedrock and are outside of the "fogbelt." The temperature regime is mesic, and the moisture regime is udic. Sitka spruce is absent. The dominant vegetation is Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and tanoak. The presence of tanoak separates this unit from unit 1.6, and the presence of western hemlock separates this unit from unit 5.29.

5.1 – Siskiyou-Trinity Area - Gasquet Mountain Ultramafics: This unit encompasses ultramafic rock in the Josephine ophiolite. The soil temperature regime is dominantly mesic, and the soil moisture regime is xeric. The vegetation includes Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine, and Port Orford-cedar. This unit drains to the Smith River and tributaries of the Klamath River.

5.24 – Siskiyou-Trinity Area - Inland Siskiyous: This unit comprises most of the MLRA. It is characterized by mountains. The geology is comprised of metasediment, metavolcanic rock, and granitic rock. The vegetation is dominantly Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, madrone, and scattered Oregon white oak. The temperature regime is dominantly mesic with small areas that are frigid, and the moisture regime is dominantly xeric with some north-facing slopes that are udic. The udic areas adjacent to MLRAs 1 and 3 are characterized by supporting western hemlock.

5.25 - Siskiyou-Trinity Area - Rogue and Illinois Valleys: This unit is comprised of the terraces and flood plains of the Rogue and Illinois River Valleys. The temperature regime is mesic, and the moisture regime is xeric. This unit contains small areas of foothill landforms but not to the extent of those in unit 5.28.

5.26 – Siskiyou-Trinity Area - Coastal Siskiyous: This unit is similar to unit 5.24 except that precipitation in much greater and tanoak is significant in the plant community. The higher precipitation and management considerations for tanoak (sprouter) make this area unique from unit 5.24.

5.7 – Siskiyou-Trinity Area - Siskiyou Foothills: This unit is characterized by foothills and is adjacent to unit 5.1, which is characterized by terraces and flood plains. The vegetation is dominantly Oregon white oak, Pacific madrone, ponderosa pine, and scattered Douglas-fir. Significant areas of rangeland are scattered throughout the unit in areas of shallow soils. The temperature regime is mesic, and the moisture regime is xeric.

Physical Description – Continued

Back to Contents

		ACRES	ACRE-FEET
Irrigated Adjudicated Water Rights *(OWRD[4])*	Surface	6,144	21,836
	Well	698	1,758
	Total Irrigated Adjudicated Water Rights	6,841	23,594
Stream Flow Data	USGS 14372300 ROGUE RIVER, NEAR AGNESS, OR	**Total Avg. Yield**	4,205,968
		May – Sept. Yield	896,350
		MILES	**PERCENT**
Stream Data[5] **Percent of Total Miles of Streams in HUC*	Total Miles – Major (100K Hydro GIS Layer)	836	---
	303d/TMDL Listed Streams (DEQ)	178	21%
	Anadromous Fish Presence (StreamNet)	118	14%
	Bull Trout Presence (StreamNet)	0	0%
		ACRES	**PERCENT**
Land Cover/Use[2] Based on a 100-foot stretch on both sides of all streams in the 100K Hydro GIS Layer	Forest	20,336	91%
	Grain Crops	7	0%
	Grass/Pasture/Hay	1,328	6%
	Orchards/Vineyards	0	0%
	Row Crops	5	0%
	Shrub/Rangelands – Includes CRP Lands	192	1%
	Water/Wetlands/Developed/Barren	555	2%
	Total Acres of 100-foot Stream Buffers	**22,423**	**---**
Land Capability Class *(Croplands & Pasturelands Only)* *(1997 NRI[3] Estimates for Non-Federal Lands Only)*	**1** – slight limitations	0	0%
	2 – moderate limitations	3,200	17%
	3 – severe limitations	1,100	6%
	4 – very severe limitations	2,400	13%
	5 – no erosion hazard, but other limitations	0	0%
	6 – severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to pasture, range, forest	8,100	44%
	7 – very severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to grazing, forest, wildlife habitat	3,600	20%
	8 – miscellaneous areas; limited to recreation, wildlife habitat, water supply	0	0%
	Total Croplands & Pasturelands	**18,400**	**---**

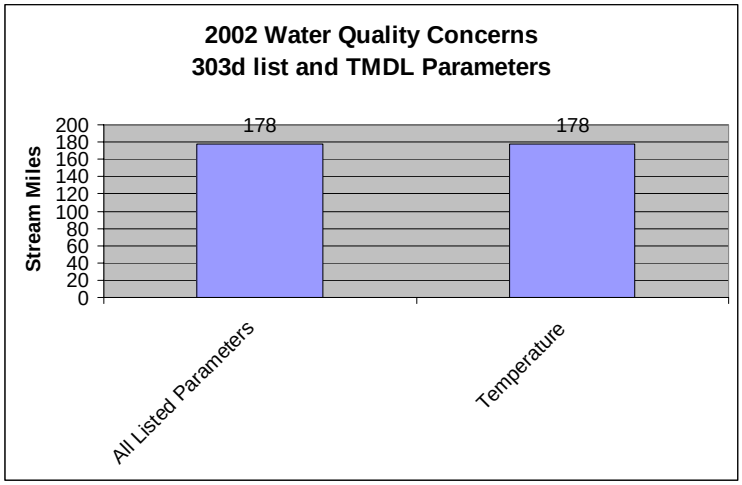
Confined Animal Feeding Operations – Oregon CAFO Permit – 12/2004

Animal Type	Dairy	Feedlot	Poultry	Swine	Mink	Other
No. of Permitted Farms	1	0	0	0	0	1
No. of Permitted Animals	225	0	0	0	0	15

Resource Concerns

Back to Contents

Tons of Soil Loss by Water Erosion: Due to the limited amount of non-Federal cropland and pastureland within this HUC, no reliable NRI soil loss estimates are available.

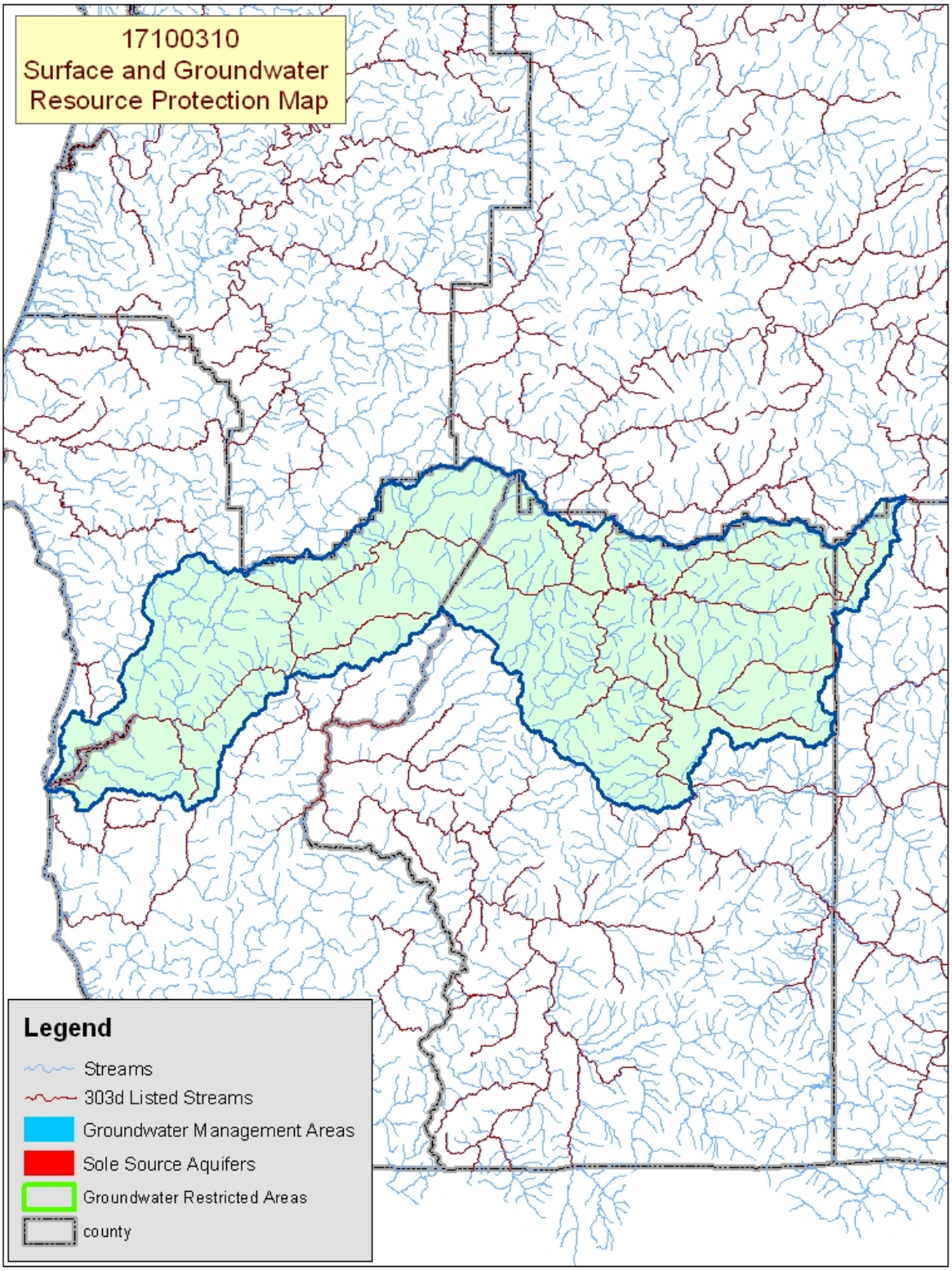


- All of the listed stream miles exceed State water quality standards for temperature. Elevated stream temperatures may be due to inadequate riparian shade, stream channel widening, and other anthropogenic or natural causes.
- Conservation practices that can be used to address these water quality issues include livestock grazing management and use of riparian buffers.

Watershed Projects, Plans, Studies, and Assessments			
NRCS Watershed Projects[6]		NRCS Watershed Plans, Studies, and Assessments[7]	
Name	Status	Name	Status
None	None	None	None
ODEQ TMDL's[8]		ODA Agricultural Water Quality Management Plans[9]	
Name	Status	Name	Status
Lobster Creek Watershed Rogue Basin	Completed Data Collection	Inland Rogue Curry	Completed Completed

OWEB Watershed Council[10]	Watershed Council Assessments[11]	NWPCC Subbasin Plans and Assessments[18]
Lower Rogue Watershed Council	Lower Rogue River Basin Watershed Condition Assessment	None

(Continued on page 8)



Map Footnote [17]

Resource Concerns - Continued

Back to Contents

Resource Concerns / Issues by Land Use						
SWAPA +H Concerns	**Specific Resource Concern / Issue**	**Grass \ Pasture \ Hay**	**Grain Crops**	**Row Crops**	**Perennial Crops (Orch / Vine / Berries)**	**Forest**
Soil Erosion	Concentrated Flow or Gully					X
	Streambank	X				X
Water Quantity	Water Management For Irrigated Land	X				
Water Quality, Surface	Low Dissolved Oxygen	X				X
	Temperature	X				X
	Aquatic Habitat Suitability	X				X
Plant Condition	Productivity, Health, and Vigor	X				X
Plant Management	Establishment, Growth, and Harvest	X				X
Animal Habitat, Domestic	Water - Quantity & Quality	X				X
	Management	X				X
Animal Habitat, Wildlife	Water - Quantity & Quality	X				
Human, Economics	Land Use Constraints/Restrictions	X				X
	High Labor Costs or Availability	X				X
	High Management Level Required	X				X
	Low or Unreliable Profitability	X				
Human, Political	High Degree of Controversy	X				X
	Lack of Technical Assistance					X

Grass / Pasture / Hay Lands

- Erosion (streambanks) and water quality (temperature) are concerns commonly because of a lack of riparian buffers.
- Insufficient forage and grazing management contributes to low-producing pastures.
- Invasive, noxious weeds can be a significant problem, especially on overgrazed pastures.
- The level of management needed for high-quality pastures commonly is not an objective of small operators.

Forestland (Private, Non-industrial)

- The primary resource concern is the impact of erosion from concentrated flows, especially from forest roads and landings, on fish and wildlife.
- Overgrazing and noxious weeds limit productivity in areas of grazed woodland.
- Private woodlots commonly suffer from hygrading (harvesting the best trees) or poor stand management (overstocked).
- Overstocked stands and invasive weeds limit productivity and increase the risk of catastrophic fire.
- Conservation on private, non-industrial forestland is limited as a result of the following:
  - Short growth cycle (40 to 60 years) for harvestable timber.
  - Low economic profitability associated with livestock grazing.
  - High capital cost to establish and manage timber.
  - Lack of technical assistance to owners of small woodlots.

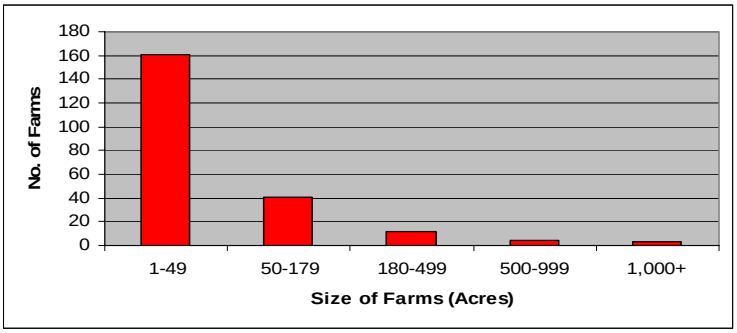
General

- Development pressure, diverse community attitudes, and issues associated with local zoning and land use can discourage landowner investment in conservation activities.

FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES[12]	
THREATENED SPECIES	**CANDIDATE SPECIES**
Marine – Steller (northern) sea lion **Birds –** Marbled murrelet, Western snowy plover, Bald eagle, Brown pelican, Short-tailed albatross, Northern spotted owl **Fish –** Coho salmon **Plants –** Mcdonald's rockcress, Gentner's fritillary, Cook's lomatium, Western lily	**Fish** – Steelhead **PROPOSED SPECIES** None
ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT[13] – Chinook, Coho	

Census and Social Data[/14]

Back to Contents



Number of Farms: 220

Number of Operators: 358

- Full-Time Operators: **139**
- Part-Time Operators: **219**

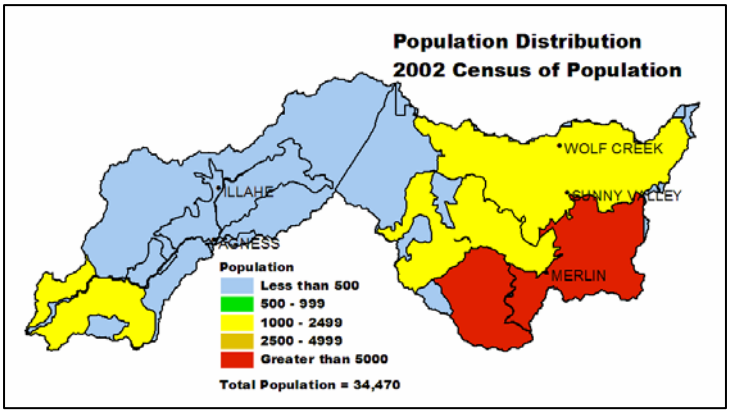
Estimated Level of Willingness and Ability to Participate in Conservation[/15]: Moderate to low

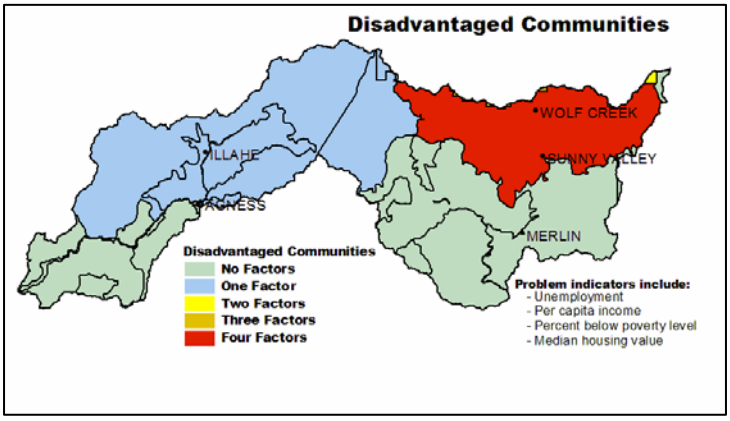
Most of the operators in the Lower Rogue subbasin are aware of local resource concerns, have a relatively positive attitude toward conservation, and are able to fit conservation into their current management system. Many, however, do not perceive local resource concerns to be related to their operation, do not have a conservation plan, and, consequently, have not adopted conservation. Nonetheless, these operators are concerned about regulatory threats and the development of subdivisions on agricultural lands. Timely technical assistance is not available to the operators in this subbasin.

Conservation marketing, planning, and technical assistance by local, possibly private, non-governmental sources (e.g. certified Technical Service Providers) may be the best way to increase the diffusion of conservation in the Lower Rogue subbasin.

Evaluation of Social Capital[/16]:
Social capital and the ability of the communities to solve problems are reported to be low. The strengths of the communities seem to be that they participate in the community activities that they deem important, such as school issues, and they commonly complete community projects. At this time, it appears that the communities do not perceive natural resource management to be an issue important to their well-being, and until this changes, it is unlikely that the communities will be a force in the diffusion of conservation in the subbasin.

Communities in the Lower Rogue subbasin might benefit from professional community development assistance to improve participation, leadership, and social capital in general.

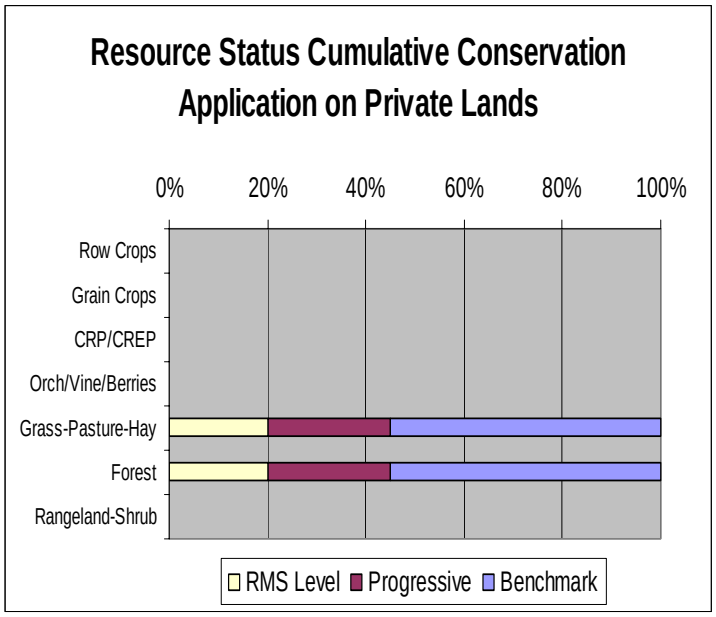




Progress / Status

Back to Contents

PRMS Data	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	Avg / Year	Total
Total Conservation Systems Planned (Acres)	4	62	4	0	33	21	103
Total Conservation Systems Applied (Acres)	2	62	75	0	7	29	146
Conservation Treatment (Acres)							
Waste Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buffers	0	140	0	0	0	28	140
Erosion Control	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Irrigation Water Management	0	0	0	50	0	10	50
Nutrient Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pest Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prescribed Grazing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trees & Shrubs	0	0	0	0	56	11	56
Conservation Tillage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wildlife Habitat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wetlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Estimates are based on information received from local conservationists in the watershed.

- Progress over the last 5 years has been focused on:
  - Irrigation water management.
  - Buffers, trees, and shrubs for wildlife and erosion control.
- Invasive weeds and a lack of proper forage and grazing management are ongoing concerns.
- Private, industrial forest owners typically do not work with NRCS and SWCDs; however, their lands usually comply with State forest practices act requirements.
- Much of the non-industrial, private forestland in the watershed is used for long-term timber production. The other portions are used as rural homesites or recreational property.

Lands Removed from Production through Farm Bill Programs

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): **32 acres**
- Wetland Restoration Program (WRP): **None**
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): **None**

Footnotes/Bibliography

Back to Contents

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1. Ownership Layer – Source: The 1:24,000 scale public ownership layer is the land ownership/management for public entities, including Federal, Tribal, State, and local entities. This is a seamless, statewide Oregon Public Ownership vector layer composed of fee ownership of lands by Federal, State, Tribal, county, and city agencies. The layer is comprised of the best available data compiled at 1:24,000 scale or larger, and the line work matches GCDB boundary locations and ORMAP standards where possible. The layer is available from the State of Oregon GIS Service Center: http://www.gis.state.or.us/data/alphalist.html. For current ownership status, consult official records at appropriate Federal, State, and county offices. Ownership classes grouped to calculate Federal ownership vs. non-Federal ownership by the Water Resources Planning Team.

2. National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) - Originator: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); Publication date: 19990631; Title: Oregon Land Cover Data Set, Edition: 1; Geospatial data presentation form: Raster digital data; Publisher: U.S. Geological Survey, Sioux Falls, SD, USA; Online linkage: http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/programs/lccp/nationallandcover.html; Abstract: These data can be used in a geographic information system (GIS) for any number of purposes, such as assessing wildlife habitat, water quality, pesticide runoff, land use change, etc. The State data sets are provided with a 300-meter buffer beyond the State border to facilitate combining the State files into larger regions.

3. ESTIMATES FROM THE 1997 NRI DATABASE (REVISED DECEMBER 2000) REPLACE ALL PREVIOUS REPORTS AND ESTIMATES. Comparisons made using data published for the 1982, 1987, or 1992 NRI may produce erroneous results. This is because of changes in statistical estimation protocols and because all data collected prior to 1997 were simultaneously reviewed (edited) as 1997 NRI data were collected. All definitions are available in the glossary. In addition, this December 2000 revision of the 1997 NRI data updates information released in December 1999 and corrects a computer error discovered in March 2000. For more information: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/NRI/

4. Irrigated Adjudicated Water Rights – Water Rights Information System (WRIS), Oregon Water Resources Department, http://www.wrd.state.or.us/maps/wrexport.shtml

5. StreamNet is a cooperative venture of the Pacific Northwest's fish and wildlife agencies and tribes and is administered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. StreamNet provided data and data services in support of the region's fish and wildlife program and other efforts to manage and restore the region's aquatic resources. Official StreamNet website: http://www.streamnet.org/

6. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Watershed Projects Planned and Authorized, http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/Purpose.

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Watershed Plans, Studies, and Assessments completed, http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/Surveys_Plng.html#Watershed%20Surveys%20and%20Plan

8. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Total Maximum Daily Loads, http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm

9. Oregon Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Water Quality Management Plans, http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/water_agplans.shtml

Footnotes/Bibliography Continued

Back to Contents

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10. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, http://oregon.gov/OWEB/WSHEDS/index.shtml

11. Watershed Assessments completed by local watershed councils following the Oregon Watershed Assessment Manual, http://oregon.gov/OWEB/docs/pubs/ws_assess_manual.shtml.

12. NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section II, Threatened and Endangered List.

13. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Public Law 94-265. As amended through October 11, 1996.

14. Data were taken from the 2002 Agricultural Census and adjusted by percent of HUC in the county or by percent of zip code area in the HUC, depending on the level of data available. Data were also taken from the U.S. Population Census, 2000.

15. Conservation participation was estimated using NRCS Social Sciences Technical Note 1801, Guide for Estimating Participation in Conservation, 2004. Four categories of indicators were evaluated: Personal characteristics, farm structural characteristics, perceptions of conservation, and community context. Estimates are based on information received from local conservationists in the watershed.

16. Social capital is an indicator of the community's ability and willingness to work together to solve problems. A high amount of social capital helps a community to be physically healthy, socially progressive, and economically vigorous. A low amount of social capital typically results in community conflict, lack of trust and respect, and unsuccessful attempts to solve problems. The evaluation is based on NRCS Technical Report Release 4.1, March, 2002: Adding Up Social Capital: An Investment in Communities. Local conservationists provided information to measure social capital. Scores range from 0 to 76.

17. Surface and Groundwater Resource Protection Map
    a. 2002 303d Listed Streams designated by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, Section 303d Clean Water Act, http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/303dlist/303dpage.htm
    b. Groundwater Management Areas designated by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Revised Statutes – Ground Water ORS 468B.150 to ORS 468B.190, http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/groundwa/wqgw.htm
    c. Groundwater Restricted Areas designated by Oregon Water Resources Commission, Oregon Department of Water Resources, http://egov.oregon.gov/OWRD/PUBS/aquabook_protections.shtml
    d. The Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) Protection Program is authorized by Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-523, 42 U.S.C. 300 et. seq), http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ssanp.html

18. Subbasin assessments and plans are developed by local groups (SWCDs, watershed councils, tribes, and others) as part of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's fish and wildlife program in the Columbia River Basin. This program is funded and implemented by the Bonneville Power Administration. http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/Default.htm.