

# Conservation District Gives Year's Report

## Annual Meeting Program Planned

(See Story Page 1, Sec. 1)

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HEPPNER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tuesday, February 6, 1968  
7:30 P.M., Lexington Grange Hall

Film on "Irrigation" shown by UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

### BUSINESS MEETING

- Minutes of 1967 Annual meeting
- Election of three Supervisors
- Financial Report
- Annual Report

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

PANEL BY Morrow County Port Commission

REFRESHMENTS—Compliments of Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District

### DISTRICT ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 1967

Held nine regular monthly meetings—one special meeting. Cooperators invited. Meetings held the first Tuesday of each month at Soil Conservation Service Office.

One annual meeting—held on regular meeting date in February.

Annual report circulated through local paper.

Observe Soil Stewardship week—"3/4 of our land".

Conservation Tour—Adult tour with lunch at Conservation Man of Year's farm, Louis and Betty Carlson. Fifth grade school tour—Lunch at Ione High School.

Co-sponsored—Application for Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Project—with supervisor on every committee.

Film made of Conservation in Morrow County.

Held two Conservation tours for outside groups.

District agrees to assist in management of two large land tracts—Navy Bombing Range and The Boeing Company site.

District pushing for County wide soil survey and underground water study.

Continued the push for a study made of Rhea Creek Small Watershed Project.

School sixth grade Forestry-Soils Tour—nine schools from four counties attending.

Sponsored a soils workshop and soil judging contest.

Sponsored the Soil and Water Conservation Speech Contest.

Co-sponsored Farm-City Week and annual banquet.

Recognition and award to Morrow County Conservation Man of the Year.

Own and rent equipment to district cooperators. 100 cooperators used equipment and stakes.

Contested in the Goodyear award program.

### ANNUAL CONSERVATION REPORT

Heppner District has 342 cooperators which includes 994,518 acres. 15 new cooperators signed district agreement sheets covering 24,932 acres.

11 basic conservation plans were written on 17,358 acres. 26,305 acres soil surveyed bring the total surveyed to 938,787 acres. Only 90 acres surveyed for contour strip cropping during the year.

Total acres of wind and contour strip cropping amounts to 24,220 acres.

133,660 linear feet of diversion ditches (25 1/4 miles) making a total of 234 miles of diversions in the district.

129 acres of land leveling bring the total to 4,985 acres leveled to date.

4949 linear feet of irrigation ditch. 125 irrigation structures and 4 large irrigation turnout dams.

Channel change and improvement on 38,458 linear feet. 3 water flumes.

63 stock ponds and erosion control dams, one irrigation pond and development of 4 springs.

500 feet of open drains, 215 linear feet of tile drains and 1284 linear feet of irrigation main line with four new irrigation systems.

5060 acres of stubble mulch fallow for the first time.

Assisted 25 farmers with 450 acres of grass and grass-legume seedings.

### District Equipment Offered for Rent

By RAYMOND FRENCH

The Heppner SWCD has five pieces of equipment for rent to district cooperators. With the good weather of late, some of the spring work can be done with this machinery at present. For instance, now would be a good time to poison gophers.

The district is at present considering buying a new grass and alfalfa drill. It is felt by the supervisors, however, that due to increased prices of new equipment and high upkeep costs that the rental on a new drill will have to be substantially raised. Comments by cooperators on this matter will be welcomed by the supervisors.

Following is a schedule of rental rates for district owned equipment:

Gopher getter	35c per acre
	\$5.00 minimum
Drill	50c per acre
	\$5.00 minimum
Noble Blade	50c per acre
	\$5.00 minimum
Packer	50c per acre
	\$5.00 minimum
Terracer	\$1.25 per hour
	\$5.00 minimum

Land leveling stakes	\$1.00 per acre
Other staking jobs	\$5.00 per bundle



SELECTION of Louis Carlson of Ione as Oregon's Conservation Man of the Year was one of the highlights of the year for the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District. Carlson has been a cooperator in the district since 1958. He was announced as county Conservation Man at the spring meeting of the Morrow County Wheat Growers League in April and was selected State Conservation Man at the Oregon Wheat League convention in Portland in December. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson will be hosts at the annual state conservation tour in June of this year. (G-T Photo).

## New Concept of Conservation Results in Forming RC&D

By RAYMOND FRENCH

The year 1967 saw a new concept of conservation development getting under way in six soil and water conservation districts in eastern Oregon. Known as Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), it is basically the joining of the six conservation districts into cooperative effort for the further development of natural resources in the combined areas.

This RC&D project, sponsored by soil and water conservation districts in Morrow, Gilliam, and Umatilla counties, is known as the Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Area of Oregon. Included are the drainages of Willow Creek, Umatilla River, Walla Walla River, and the part of Gilliam county which drains into the John Day River. It consists of a total land area of 3,596,840 acres (5,620 square miles) or 5.8% of all land in the state of Oregon.

The original sponsors are Gilliam, Heppner, Boardman, South Umatilla, and East Umatilla SWCD's. Support by other organizations such as county courts, port commissions, recreational organizations, and other community groups, is being sought. The organizational structure consists of resource committees composed of members of each sponsoring district, local leaders, and resource agency people. There are six of these committees: water, cropland, woodland, rangeland, recreation and wildlife, and publicity. Resource committees represent the action of the RC&D project. They determine major objectives and both short and long range goals.

Some of the problems to be considered include Columbia River projects being considered by the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation on Willow Creek, Walla Walla, and Umatilla Rivers. Small watershed projects will be encouraged by the RC&D unit. Each SWCD is at present sponsoring one or more of these under Public Law 566.

Cropland soil losses will be studied along with practices which will sustain rangelands and woodlands on both private and public domain. Recreational developments will also be encouraged.

It is hoped by the sponsoring

districts that along with cooperation with other legal entities and individuals that a united furthering of resource conservation can be presented in the front and developments within the Columbia Blue Mountain RC&D boundaries.



LOUIS CARLSON, State Conservation Man, sifts topsoil in a diversion ditch on his ranch. The ditch keeps topsoil from washing away. Carlson has 2760 acres under his management. Among conservation practices employed are use of trashy fallow, diversion ditches seeded to grass, sod waterways and contour farming. In the way of range management, practices include rotation-deferred grazing, water developments and fencing. (G-T Photo).

## HEPPNER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT January 1, 1968

Bank balance January 3, 1967	\$1,769.59
Received from cooperators on account	\$768.70
Over payments refunded	75.75
Net income from cooperators	\$692.95
Interest on time deposit	25.56
Donations	60.00
Bank deposits during 1967	778.51
	\$2,548.10
Disbursements during 1967	
Office supplies	\$ 35.10
Telephone	1.39
Dues and memberships	151.00
Audit report	5.00
Stakes & flags purchased	224.30
Advertising	124.35
Bonds and insurance	45.00
Awards and trophies	32.00
Annual meeting rent	15.00
Eighth grade tour	25.00
Stewardship material	24.00
	682.14
Paid out by checks	
Bank balance January 2, 1968	\$1,865.96
Value of equipment	1,164.84
Total cash and equipment assets as of January 2, 1968	\$3,030.80
Accounts receivable	\$ 37.25
Credits	2.55
Net receivable accounts	\$ 34.70

### Following Equipment Available On Rental Basis

Gopher getter	.35 per acre, Minimum \$5.00 rental
Grass drill	.50 per acre, Minimum \$5.00 rental
Noble blade	.50 per acre, Minimum \$5.00 rental
Packer	.50 per acre, Minimum \$5.00 rental
Terracer	1.25 per acre, Minimum \$5.00 rental

### EQUIPMENT RENTAL DURING 1967

Gopher getter	\$ 68.20
Grass drill	88.50
Noble blade	20.00
Packer	10.00
Terracer	16.25

Stake sales used land leveling	\$202.95
Stakes sold by bundle	\$ 79.50
	152.40

Submitted by EDMOND GONTY, Treasurer

## Heppner District Lists New Objectives for 1968

Encourage continuation of strip-cropping, stubble mulch fallow, diversion ditches, grass-legume rotations, contour farming and other needed conservation practices.

Continue to maintain and operate conservation equipment now owned for use by district cooperators.

Bring to the attention of all people the importance of conservation of our natural resources and its effect on their economics.

Continue to encourage and cooperate with Oregon Wheat League in selecting the Conservation Man of the Year.

Affiliate with and be represented at the State and National Conservation Associations.

Carry out a well-rounded conservation program through participation in the Goodyear Conservation Award Contest.

Continue to sponsor activities to better acquaint Youth with observation of our natural resources—Conservation speech contest—Soil workshop and judging contests—send boy to attend conservation range camp.

Encourage observance of Soil Stewardship Week with all Churches in the District.

Be represented on all committees of the Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Project.

## Does Subsoiling Pay?

By RALPH RICHARDS

Does subsoiling pay? Those of you that make a practice of subsoiling must think so. Other farmers think there is no value in subsoiling and that it is a costly operation. Which is true.

The Pendleton Experiment Station found after several years of subsoiling on three different locations in Umatilla County that there was no increase in crop yield.

The ACP makes payment for subsoiling as a conservation practice. Before approval is given on this practice the Soil Conservation Service must determine if there is a need for this practice. Checking this fall on requests we found the same thing on every request. The roots of the previous crop was matted in a two inch zone just above a soil compacted layer. In every case after digging through the restrictive layer we found some moisture. How much that moisture would have helped

ed the growing crop I cannot say, but we know it surely wouldn't have hurt any.

This is not a suggestion that everyone should subsoil but I would suggest that everyone do a little digging with a hardpan to see if they have a hardpan that will prevent the permeability of moisture or stop roots from penetrating.

This was an exceptional year, but aren't they all? The crop had moisture during the period of root formation and then when the roots had to work for moisture, also for food, the hardpan had dried and hardened sufficient to prevent roots from penetrating.

All soils do not form compacted pans while other soils are more easily compacted. So again I suggest you do some digging on your own or come in the office and we will study your soils map and go dig if necessary and let you make the decision if subsoiling will benefit you.

THE FOLLOWING ARE HAPPY TO JOIN IN SPONSORING THIS REPORT IN THE INTEREST OF CONSERVATION:

- |                          |                                 |                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Paul Pettyjohn Co.       | Heppner Inland Chemical         | Dick Meador           |
| Morrow Co. Grain Growers | Columbia Basin Electric Co-op   | Padberg Machinery Co. |
| White's Grading Service  | Pettyjohn's Farm & Bldg. Supply | Gar Aviation          |
| Cornett Green Feed       | First National Bank             | Lindstrom Brothers    |

IRONWORKS AND SPRAYING SERVICE

HEPPNER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT