

Soil Surveys and Resource Development

Hepner Soil and Water
Conservation District

Annual Meeting Program

26th Year

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1970

7:30 P.M.

LEXINGTON GRANGE HALL

1. Opening Meeting
2. Business Meeting
3. Election of Two Supervisors
4. Introduction of Guests
5. Film—"The Great Difference"
6. Review of Soil Surveys in Morrow County

TALK:

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN MORROW COUNTY

By Amos L. Oleson, State Resource
Conservationist,
Soil Conservation Service

REFRESHMENTS—Compliments of Hepner Soil and Water Conservation District

District Objectives for 1970

1. Update district Program and Objectives.
2. Assist with planning on Rock Creek Watershed.
3. Continue emphasis on soil surveys.
4. Complete Lake Penland Project.
5. Encourage observance of Soil Stewardship Week.
6. Participate in state OACD annual meeting.
7. Assist in formulation of committees for North Morrow irrigation project.
8. Meet jointly with Port of Morrow and Boardman S&WCD on development of North Morrow County.
9. Encourage more wildlife developments.
10. Participate in organization of Oregon Administrative District No. 12.
11. Continue emphasis on conservation education, including grade school tours.
12. Give assistance to Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D.
13. Enter Goodyear Conservation Award Contest.
14. Be aware of other developments, either agricultural or industrial, as it affects conservation developments.

District Annual Report

	Number	Units
New Cooperators	23	90,990 acres
Services to Individuals	675	
Detailed Soil Survey		59,574 acres
Conservation Plans	8	106,496 acres
Units of Government Assisted	15	
Services to Groups	43	
Brush Control		488 acres
Chiseling & Subsoiling		3,284 acres
Conservation Cropping System		513 acres
Contour Farming		454 acres
Crop Residue Management		510 acres
Debris Basins	6	
Deferred Grazing		5,064 acres
Diversion		133,796 feet
Ponds	2	
Irrigation Field Ditch		3,233 feet
Grassed Waterway or Outlet		5 acres
Irrigation Pipeline		10,423 feet
Land Leveling		75 acres
Land Smoothing		53 acres
Drainage Main or Lateral		1,306 feet
Pasture & Hayland Management		3,130 acres
Pasture & Hayland Planting		489 acres
Pipeline		2,700 feet
Proper Grazing Use		146,594 acres
Range Seeding		215 acres
Range Rotation Deferred Grazing		84,000 acres
Spring Development	3	
Stream Channel Improvement		15,710 feet
Drainage Field Ditch		1,260 feet
Tile Drain		1,088 feet
Wells	31	
Land Adequately Treated		160,051 acres



GEORGE GREEN of SCS explains detailed soil maps of Morrow County to Hepner district supervisors.

Detailed Soil Map of County Completed For Nearly 60,000 Acres

By DALE W. BONER
Soil Conservation Service
Hepner, Oregon

Irrigon, Hermiston, Pilot Rock, Stanfield and Condon. Names of towns? Not in this case. These are names that soil scientists are using to identify the soils in Morrow County.

Soils are mapped and grouped according to a nationwide system. These groupings are given names, such as a town or other geographic feature near the place where the soil was first mapped. Ritzville, Quincy, Warden and Winchester are other names used in the county.

Soil scientists travel over the land augering many holes and digging pits to look at the soil. As they go along they look at the slope of the land, the kinds of vegetation and kinds of rock. This information is recorded on aerial photographs and the soil given a name.

A detailed soil survey was started in Morrow County in 1969. The survey is being made by the Soil Conservation Service

at the request of the Hepner Soil and Water Conservation District. The Port of Morrow and Morrow County also encouraged the study. Morrow County is providing financial assistance for the soil survey.

"Before any large development is started we need to know what soils we have," says Ken Turner, district supervisor and farmer. Getting water from the Columbia River has created much interest in knowing what soils can and cannot be irrigated. Possible disposal and storage of warm water from nuclear plants has made this a more feasible irrigation project.

The survey team, headed by George L. Green of The Dalles, mapped 60,000 acres during the past year. They started at the Umatilla and Morrow County boundary, moving west across the south end of the bombing range.

The information collected was presented by Green to the county court at the last Hepner district board meeting. This included aerial photographs showing

the different soils mapped and a special soil survey report with descriptions and interpretations.

Field mapping will continue during the period, February-April, 1970. Green says they should map 100,000 acres this year now that they are more familiar with the area.

Hepner SWCD Supervisors

RAYMOND FRENCH,
CHAIRMAN

KEN TURNER,
VICE CHAIRMAN

DICK McELLIOTT,
SECRETARY

ED GONTY, TREASURER

BRYCE KEENE

ALBERT WRIGHT

DAVID BAKER

RUDY BERGSTROM

Advisory Supervisors

D. O. NELSON

O. W. CUTSFORTH

PAUL PETTYJOHN

Resource Conservation And Development The Can-Do Projects

By EARL N. JONES
Soil Conservation Service
Bend, Oregon

The foresight and determined effort of the six Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and more recently of the three County Courts and the three Port Districts, has resulted in planning authorization for the proposed Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Project embracing all of Morrow, Gilliam and Umatilla Counties. This authorization was announced by Agriculture Secretary Hardin on January 12, 1970.

RC&D projects are based on the premise that people in project areas can and will solve their resource problems through their own efforts if given some encouragement and some help by public agencies. Basically, it is a "self-help" program. We must keep this in mind, because the moment a project becomes an effort directed and controlled by other than local people its effectiveness is lost.

Local leadership in the Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Project has built from the bottom up rather than from the top down. Local people make decisions about their project and what they intend to do. They recognize the need of the multi-county approach and set the boundaries large enough to deal with area-wide problems and small enough for effective local leadership.

RC&D projects were authorized by Section 102, Title I of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962. The Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been assigned program leadership.

The Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D project is one of sixty-three such projects in the United States authorized for planning. Forty-five of these projects have been authorized for project operations on completion of a Project Plan.

The six Soil and Water Conservation Districts submitted an application for planning assistance for an RC&D project in the summer of 1963. An amended application adjusting project boundaries to include all of Morrow, Gilliam and Umatilla Counties and adding as sponsors the County Courts of Morrow, Gilliam and Umatilla and the Port Districts of Port of Morrow, Port of Arlington and Port of

Umatilla was submitted to Kenneth E. Grant, Soil Conservation Service Administrator on December 4, 1969. This amended application received the approval and support of Governor McCall.

The sponsors of this application and amendment have been very active and have carried out several successful project measures and have organized for action.

Two Supervisors from each of the Six Soil and Water Conservation Districts constitute the Coordinating Board. Edwin Hoeft and Ralph Saylor from the Southern Umatilla and West Umatilla SWCD's, respectively, serve as Co-Chairmen. The following Resource Committees, with their chairmen, have been active: Community Development, Ralph Saylor; Cropland, R. E. Irby; Publicity, Martin Buchanan; Rangeland, Raymond French; Recreation and Wildlife, Glenn Thorne; Water, M. R. Johns; and Woodland, Wayne Bowman.

The 1967 Annual Report, Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Area, presented at a Public Meeting in Boardman on April 16, 1968, demonstrated very effectively that the local sponsors are taking their rural area development responsibilities seriously. This constructive document probably contributed to the selection of the Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Area for one of the twelve national Project Planning authorizations early in 1970. The outstanding Brochure developed by the Port of Morrow in the Spring of 1969 probably provided a beneficial influence in this selection.

The Local Sponsors have also demonstrated their capability to move confidently into project measures involving works of improvement, land treatment and accelerated soil surveys with a minimum of agency technical assistance and encouragement. This was done without a funded RC&D project and a formalized Project Plan. For example, the Lake Penland Recreation Project, a private irrigation development in Northern Morrow County involving nearly 10,000 acres; the accelerated soil surveys in 1969 and 1970 in Northern Morrow County. Also, the progressive activities of the Port of Morrow, including the industrial development consti-

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

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- First National Bank of Oregon

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- Morrow County Grain Growers
- Padberg Machinery Company
- Highland Machinery Company Condon
- Frontier Machinery Corporation Pendleton
- Stone Machinery Company Pendleton
- Courtright Irrigation La Grande
- Columbia Pump and Electric Motors—Pendleton
- Farmore—Pump and Irrigation Athena

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- Morrow County Grain Growers, Inc., Petroleum Division
- Ed Dick Standard Oil Plant

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HEPPNER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT