

Lake Penland Project A Morrow County First

Heppner Soil and Water
Conservation District

Annual Meeting Program

27th Year

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1971

7:30 P.M.

LEXINGTON GRANGE HALL

1. Film — "ATOMIC POWER TODAY: Service With Safety"
2. Opening Meeting
3. Business Meeting
4. Election of One Supervisor
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Review of Columbia Blue Mountain RC&D projects — Gerald George

TALK:

ROLE OF NUCLEAR PLANTS

By Dr. Alan H. Robinson,

Associate Professor of Nuclear Engineering,
Oregon State University

REFRESHMENTS—Compliments of Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District

District Objectives for 1971

1. Complete Lake Penland Project.
2. Continue emphasis on soil surveys for Morrow County.
3. Assist Rhea Creek owners in getting feasibility study completed; request stream flow gauge for mouth of Rhea Creek.
4. Encourage planning for irrigation development of North Morrow County.
5. Complete updating of district Program and Objectives.
6. Assist Morrow County Planning Commission on comprehensive land use plan.
7. Enter Goodyear conservation contest.
8. Complete the feasibility and work plan for city of lone watershed.
9. Continue emphasis on conservation education, including grade school tours.
10. Urge construction funding be made available for Rock Creek Watershed and Willow Creek Project.

District Annual Report

	Number	Units
New Cooperators	1	43,000 acres
Services to Individuals	333	
Detailed Soil Survey		74,610 acres
Conservation Plans	1	788 acres
Units of Government Assisted	6	
Services to Groups	21	
Brush Control		56 acres
Chiseling & Subsoiling		1,482 acres
Conservation Cropping System		1,884 acres
Contour Farming		264 acres
Crop Residue Management		2,682 acres
Debris Basins	7	
Deferred Grazing		240 acres
Diversions		169,715 feet
Ponds	2	
Grassed Waterway		7.6 acres
Irrigation Pipeline		2,120 feet
Land Leveling		75 acres
Land Smoothing		15.4 acres
Pasture & Hayland Management		516 acres
Pasture & Hayland Planting		343 acres
Proper Grazing Use		3,297 acres
Range Seeding		638 acres
Open Channel		15,277 feet
Land Adequately Treated		11,745 acres
Irrigation Water Management		590 acres
Critical Area Planting		46 acres

District Achievements for 1970

1. Assisted in completion of the Columbia Blue Mountain RC&D project plan.
2. Lake Penland Project construction started and 70% completed.
3. An additional 5,000 acres were soil surveyed in the northern part of the county.
4. Participated in soil stewardship week and conducted conservation education tours for grade school children and adults.
5. Soil samples and infiltration studies made on soils in north end of district.



THE CONSTRUCTION of the earth fill dike at Lake Penland Project. This dike will be approximately 400 feet long and have an emergency spillway across the north end. (SCS Photo).

Long Range Program Planning Important To Morrow County Future

By HAROLD KERR
County Extension Agent

Have you heard your friends and neighbors talking about LRPP (Long Range Program Planning)? If not, you and they should be, because the nineteen different committees are talking about your future, and the future of Morrow County.

The Long Range Planning effort is sponsored by the Morrow County Extension Advisory Committee and the Morrow County Extension Service and is a joint endeavor of these groups and the Heppner Soil & Water Conservation District.

The various committees and sub-committees are studying the general economic conditions

within our county, the crops and livestock situation, the health and educational aspects in our county and the potential for growth and development. Also, considerable attention is being given to the human resources of our county. Groups are studying family stability, youth, consumer competence, housing, nutrition, senior adults, and job opportunities for women.

These committees with a total of 154 members, after reviewing the general situation and exploring various avenues available, are making a list of recommendations for the future.

The Heppner Gazette-Times is carrying a schedule each week of committee meetings. Please

feel free to attend any committee which you are interested in.

The Long Range Planning meetings will be drawing to a close around March 1, as the Extension Advisory Council has set that date as a target deadline for completion of the long range planning effort.

A public meeting for the entire county will be held in April at which time committee chairmen will have an opportunity to give a report on their committee's recommendations. A Long Range Planning Report will be printed and distributed to all interested individuals and groups.

General chairman of the LRPP is Bob Jepsen. Committee chairmen are: Public Health, Clarence Rosewall; Recreation and Tourism, Orville Cutsforth; Water Resources, Ken Turner; Crop Production & Marketing, Don Peterson; Public Affairs, Gene Pierce; Forestry Production & Marketing, Frank Rasmussen & Bruce Malcom; Livestock Production & Marketing, Ned Clark; Dairy, Kurt Gantenbein; Sheep, Shirley Rugg; Public Lands, Mary Chitty; Human Resources, Jean Nelson; Sub-Committees of the Human Resources-Consumer Competence, Bonnie Clow; Food & Nutrition, Evelyn Black; Housing, Rev. Ed Cutting; Family Stability, Dorris Graves; Senior Adults, Justine Weatherford; Job Opportunities, Donna Bergstrom; Youth, Francine Evans.

Rhea Creek Project Feasible

By BRYCE KEENE

The State Engineer's office began its study of the Rhea Creek project during the summer of 1968.

Of the 11 sites included in the preliminary survey, the site at the Ruggs ranch below the confluence of Balm Fork and Rhea Creek was the most feasible. This site has a drainage area of 90 square miles and would provide a yield of 8800 acre feet on an 80 per cent chance.

Since 1968 a study has been made on Rhea Creek to determine local interest. The study

showed over 95 per cent of the farmers were interested in stored water. A further study of local interest, is in progress at this time, and it is indicated from the State Engineer's office, if this study is favorable, further work will be conducted on the site during the summer of 1971.

The Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District is the sponsor of this project. Two of the District Supervisors are Rhea Creek farmers, and they have the assistance of three more farmers acting as a steering committee.

Water Storage Potential Offers Recreational Use

By DALE BONER
District Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service

Look at any map of Morrow County and there aren't any reservoirs or lakes shown which have a surface area of over five acres (not counting the Columbia). Yet each year during the winter, and occasionally the summer, excess water runs off the land and down the creeks to the Columbia River.

Lake Penland will be a first for the Heppner Soil & Water Conservation District and Morrow County. Construction of this man-made reservoir was started in August of 1970 and was 70% completed before freezing weather came.

The design prepared by the Soil Conservation Service shows a reservoir with 67 surface acres being created by building a 28 foot high earth fill dam. The crest length of the dam will be 395 feet and the impoundment will hold 590 acre-feet of water. Lake Penland Corporation, a non-profit organization, is financing the total cost of the land

and construction with the intention of the project being used solely for recreation.

The dam is located on public land and an agreement was made to give the public access to approximately 1/3 of the shoreline and the reservoir surface. This access will be by a standard gravel road built by Morrow County. Campgrounds, restroom facilities, boat ramp and parking will be developed by the U. S. Forest Service and fish will be stocked by the Oregon State Game Commission.

The visitor-day use of Lake Penland has been estimated to be 20,600 per year. This figure is taken from a Forest Service report and is based on location and actual counts made on comparable reservoirs. For comparison, Bull Prairie which is a slightly smaller reservoir but has better access had an actual count of 44,000 visitor-days for 1969.

The people who are spending this time are spending money, and a percentage of the recreational dollar will be going to the businesses of Morrow County for gasoline, groceries and fishing supplies. The county itself will be receiving larger tax revenues from the building of summer homes and other developments that may occur adjacent to these reservoirs.

From a USDA report on Water and Related Land Resources for the Umatilla Drainage Basin 18 possible reservoir sites are shown in Morrow County. All of these could be as large as Lake Penland and several could be much larger.

This does not consider all the smaller reservoirs and ponds that could be built for recreational purposes. Many small ponds have been built and stocked with fish in the past, however, very few in the last couple of years. A new program, Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, has a practice for construction of ponds and dams for wildlife with a federal cost share of 80%.

Recreation is big business and will be getting bigger every year as people have more leisure time and more money to spend on recreation. Water is the major resource which draws the public to an area to participate in the various forms of recreation it provides, and Morrow County has a great opportunity here.

Heppner S&WCD

Supervisors

KEN TURNER, CHAIRMAN

BRYCE KEENE,
VICE CHAIRMAN

DICK McELLIGOTT,
SECRETARY

ED GONTY, TREASURER

ALBERT WRIGHT

RUDY BERGSTROM

DAVE BAKER

Advisory Supervisors

D. O. NELSON

O. W. CUTSFORTH

PAUL PETTYJOHN

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

EQUIPMENT AND IRRIGATION

- Morrow County Grain Growers Lexington
- Padberg Machinery Lexington
- Highland Machinery Co. Condon
- Frontier Machinery Co. Pendleton
- Stone Machinery Pendleton, The Dalles, Walla Walla
- Cole Electric — Pendleton
- Courtright Irrigation — La Grande
- Farmore Service Center Irrigation Division — Pendleton
- Lindstrom Bros. — lone
- T & C Stomor Grain Bins — lone
- Columbia Pump & Electric Pendleton

FERTILIZER

- Heppner Inland Chemical Heppner
- Bi-County Chemical — lone
- Cenex Plant Foods — lone

SUPPLIES

- Pettyjohn's Farm & Building Supply — Heppner
- Dobyns Pest Control — lone
- Cornett Green Feed — Heppner
- Murrays Drug — Heppner
- Rietmann's Hardware — lone
- Bristow's Market — lone

PETROLEUM

- Mike Gray (Union Oil) Heppner
- Ed Dick (Standard Oil) Heppner
- Paul Pettyjohn (Shell Oil) lone

FINANCE

- Federal Land Bank Association Pendleton
- Bank of Eastern Oregon Heppner — lone
- First National Bank — Heppner
- Morrow County Abstract & Title Co. — Heppner
- Pendleton Production Credit Association — Pendleton

MACHINE HIRE

- Gar Aviation — Lexington
- White's Grading Service — lone

POWER

- Columbia Basin Electric Heppner

INSURANCE

- Turner, Van Marter & Bryant Heppner
- Ruggles Ins. Agency — Heppner
- Charles O'Connor — lone

AUTOMOTIVE

- B & C Repair — lone
- Ekstrom Trailer Sales — lone
- Heppner Auto Sales — Heppner
- Farley Motor — Heppner

GRANGES

- Willows Grange — lone
- Rhea Creek Grange — Heppner

HEPPNER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT