

Can We Accelerate the Conservation Program?

Annual Financial Report Of January 1, 1971 to December 31, 1971

Bank Balance of Jan. 1, 1971	\$ 195.62
Gross Income from Cooperators	\$ 57.45
Donations from annual Adv.	249.50
F. N. Bank Interest (time savings)	50.69
	357.64
Refund on 1/2 liab. insurance (bus tour)	12.50
	\$ 370.14 \$ 370.14
Total Balance and Income	\$ 565.76
Disbursements for 1971	
Sect. State audit	\$ 5.00
Oregon Asse. Conserv. dues	65.00
National Asse. Conserv. dues	82.50
Stewardship Materials	19.65
RC&D dues	20.00
Treasurer Bond	10.00
Liability Ins. Bus tour	25.00
Postage	16.00
Supplies	1.85
Lexington Grange annual meeting rent	20.00
Annual Adv.	176.50
Trophies and Awards	44.63
Total disbursements	\$ 486.13 \$ 486.13
Bank Balance and on Hand Jan. 1, 1972	\$ 79.63
On Times Saving Acct.	1,000.00
Value of Equipment	358.97
Total Cash and Equipment	\$1,438.60
Accounts receivable	\$137.50
Accounts credit	1.00
Net accounts rec.	\$136.50
Rentals Gopher Getter	\$ 46.95
Sale of flags	117.00
Total	\$ 163.95
Equipment; Gopher Getter, Noble Blade and Packer.	

Respectfully,
EDMOND GONTY, Treasurer

Shobe Flood Unites People In Solving Serious Problem



THIS PICTURE SHOWS City swimming pool shortly after flood waters had passed. Pool is full of sediment and debris, building has hole through both walls and pavement has been lifted off the street. (SCS Photo).

**By AL OSMIN
Soil Conservation Service**
The most widely publicized (nation-wide) and talked about area in Morrow County this past year has been the Shobe Canyon Watershed and the flood of May 25, 1971. Since that disaster many developments have taken place with most of them good.

The publicity which Heppner received wasn't all desirable, but this event seems to have awakened the people to the basic cause of the flood problem and united them in reaching one goal. This was to prevent future flooding to occur in Heppner.

Landowners, townspeople and city officials met with the supervisors of the Heppner Soil &

Water Conservation District shortly after the flood to request that something be done about the problem. At this meeting it was decided that a complete land treatment program was needed and that financing for such a project would have to be acquired.

Special project funds, at 80% cost-sharing with the landowners, under the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) was obtained through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. The design for a complete land treatment program of the entire Shobe Watershed was prepared by the Soil Conservation Service.

Within 30 days after the flood the design, financing arrangements and a contractor

was on the job working on the diversion ditches, sod waterways and small erosion dams. These construction measures along with some additional acreage will be seeded to grass. The total objectives of all these practices is to reduce the total volume and peak flow that can occur in the cloudburst type storm.

If all the flow volume that came down in the May flood were caught in a big tub, 30% or more would have been something other than water. Water moving straight down the slope, and in great enough volumes, brings with it soil, rocks, wood, etc. Diversion ditches break up the vertical runoff pattern and lead the water on a contour to the edge of the field to a grassed waterway or natural drainage. This slows the water up and gives some of it a chance to be absorbed into the ground.

In the natural drainages small erosion dams will be constructed that will reduce the volume of flow even more. The average capacity of these dams will be around two acre feet. When these reservoirs fill with runoff, the overflow will be carried to the next dam or the main channel by a grassed waterway.

By the time the runoff from the treated farmland area reaches the main channels, the runoff water from areas of the watershed not requiring conservation practices will have moved on out. This total concept is what gives the spreading or lengthening out of the cloudburst instead of the "stacking up of water".

To date approximately 70% of the Shobe Canyon project has been completed. As time and weather permits the remaining work will be completed this spring.



THIS PICTURE SHOWS Route 207 bridge in the lower right and Pettijohn's new barn in the upper center. The barn is about 10 feet higher than the bottom of the channel. The bridge has a 6 foot high opening and a 2.5 foot high railing. (SCS Photo).



THIS PICTURE SHOWS the water erosion on cropland. Soil loss per acre was up to 300 tons on this field which had been stubble mulched but has no other protection. Notice the "supered curves" indicating the speed of the water that came off these 20% slopes. (G-T Photo).

Columbia-Snake-Palouse Program Could Halt Erosion and Pollution

By KEN TURNER

Soil loss by action of water and wind has been and continues to be a most serious problem in many sections, especially the summer fallow areas of Idaho, Washington and Oregon. The States' three Soil and Water Conservation Commissions have consolidated their efforts and have developed a contractual program which is designed to alleviate this serious erosion, air and water pollution problem.

A bill is being introduced in congress this year and if authorized and funded it will offer the regions' farmers a Great Plains type conservation program which has been very successful in the Mid-West.

The main features:

- 1) Higher cost sharing of up to 80% assistance for more incentive.
- 2) Length of sign-up period (3 to 10 years) allows farmers

or ranchers time to systematically apply conservation measures.

3) The program as outlined provides a vehicle for the application of a thorough conservation job.

Since a farmer would have contracted assurance of funds, a more complete and effective job could be done over a period of several years.

The program would not compete with or weaken the present Rural Environmental Assistance Program, but would add a big dimension to it. The Soil Conservation Service would provide technical assistance while Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service would like-ly administer it.

Local Districts are working on and supporting the proposal and the Heppner SWCD has been sold on this concept for many years.

Lake Penland Project Completed In 1971

By DALE W. BONER
Soil Conservation Service

This year the sounds of summer home construction will replace those of earth moving equipment on the Lake Penland Project. The completion of this earth fill dam, a first for Morrow County, was a big accomplishment for the Heppner Soil & Water Conservation District.

Planning started on this project in 1968 and construction in August of 1970. Baldwin Bros. Construction from The Dalles had 70% of the work completed by the first fall. Richard Meador, Heppner, finished the earth moving for the dam last fall.

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 48,000 visitor days for 1970. With this recreational development only 25 miles from Heppner, many people from the immediate area will use Penland for weekend outings to get away from the summer heat.

The design for Penland was prepared by the Soil Conservation Service and shows a reservoir with 67 surface acres being created by the 28 foot high earth fill dam. The crest length of the dam is 395 feet and the impoundment will hold 590 acre-feet of water. The 1971 Shobe Canyon flood did not have as much water as Penland will hold.

Lake Penland Corporation, a non-profit organization, financed the total cost of the land and construction with the intent of the project to be 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. The access is 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.

Wagers have probably been made on if and when the reservoir will fill. Studies made by SCS engineers indicated that filling could take two years. However, with the good snow pack this early in the season the reservoir stands an excellent chance of filling with the spring runoff. Evaporation and seepage will drop the surface two to three feet but this will be easily replaced each year.



PENLAND RESERVOIR on November 19, 1971. (SCS Photo).

Rhea Creek Progress Report

By BRYCE KEENE

During 1971 more core drilling was completed on the Ruggs Ranch Dam site. The core drilling work done in 1968 showed depth to solid rock to be too great. The 1971 drilling was done approximately 100 yards upstream from the previous site, and did show a much less depth to solid rock.

Cross section surveys were completed on the creek from the mouth to the dam site to determine the area inundated by various floods.

A gauging station was in-

stalled at Garry Tullis' ranch to determine normal runoff from Rhea Creek to Willow Creek.

In addition to flood runoff and storage for irrigation, the dam has been designed to provide a recreation pool with a minimum of 50 surface acres.

All of the required data has been gathered in order to write a preliminary investigation report by the watershed Planning Division of the State Engineers. As soon as approval for a method of joint-use storage has been given, a complete report will be available.



DARRELL LEARN, Head of Watershed Planning Division, State Engineers Office, will present the Progress Report for the Rhea Creek Watershed Development.

Darrell Learn Scheduled to Speak At S&WCD Annual Meeting Feb. 3

Darrell Learn, Supervisor of the Watershed Planning Division of the Oregon State Engineer Office, was raised on a cattle ranch in northeastern Washington. Graduated from Washington State University in 1963, with a degree in Civil Engineering.

He is registered as a civil engineer in the states of California and Oregon. He is 31 years of age and presently lives in Salem with his wife Linda and daughters Tracy, 6, and Trina, 3.

Darrell has spent the last seven years doing planning work for Public Law 566, small watershed projects.

Irrigated Acreage to Increase in 1972

By RUPERT KENNEDY
Port Manager, Port of Morrow

Morrow County had 3500 acres of new intensively irrigated crop producing lands in 1971. This acreage will be increased by another 11,000 acres in 1972.

It is estimated there will be 30,000 privately irrigated acres by 1975, probably being Desert Magic Inc., Shell Chemical lands, Boeing lands and other lands near the Columbia River.

The Port of Morrow Commission with its bonding capabilities

to distribute nuclear coolant water will continue to attract new nuclear power tenants to the Sand Hollow and Juniper Canyon areas to irrigate the lands in that area. The next nuclear tenant is going to be more difficult to attract to Morrow County than the first one, but the climate for siting is improving continuously.

The Bureau of Reclamation is continuing the studies and engineering on the South Side Project.



THIS PICTURE SHOWS Supervisors at monthly board meeting — Bryce Keene, Gary Grieb, Albert Wright, Ed Gonty, Ken Turner, Dick McElligott, Rudy Bergstrom. (SCS Photo).

Heppner S&WCD Supervisors

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